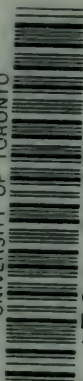


UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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# WILTSHIRE



The Cities and County Towns are denoted by red, and the respective Hundreds of the County by different Colours which distinctions are peculiar to the superior Edition.

*Robt. Gorman*  
*1806.*

TOPOGRAPHICAL  
AND  
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF WILTS,

*Containing an Account of its*

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Minerals,	Fairs,
Towns,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Roads,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Antiquities,
Lakes,	Commerce,	Natural History.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

*To which is prefixed,*

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING INDEX;

Exhibiting, at One View,

*The Direct and principal Cross Roads,*

*Inns and Distance of Stages,*

*Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.*

Forming a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

The whole interspersed with a variety of Information, entertaining to the general Reader; highly beneficial to the Agriculturist, Trader, and Manufacturer; and particularly interesting to the Traveller, Speculatist, Antiquary, and to every Inhabitant of the County.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,

*Editor of the Universal System of Geography*

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY.

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And sold by all the Booksellers in  
the United Kingdom.



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# INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

## In the County of Wilts.

To find the distance from Amesbury to Wotton Basset, see Amesbury on the top and Wotton Basset on the side, carry your sight to the square where both meet, which gives the distance.

	Amesbury	Distant from London,										Miles, 78							
Bradford	27	Bradford,											100						
Caine	23	13	Caine,										87						
Chippenham	32	11	6	Chippenham,									93						
Cricklade	38	30	17	20	Cricklade,								83						
Devizes	16	13	7	10	24	Devizes,							88						
Highworth	35	34	20	23	8	23	Highworth,						76						
Hindon	17	20	30	21	47	26	51	Hindon,					96						
Malnesbury	46	21	16	10	12	20	14	Malnesbury,					95						
Marlborough	19	27	14	20	19	14	16	36	23	Marlborough,			74						
Melksham	22	5	8	6	26	8	26	22	16	22	Melksham,		95						
Salisbury	8	33	30	33	46	23	43	16	52	27	29	Salisbury,	81						
Swindon	29	27	14	18	9	19	6	45	16	10	22	37	Swindon,	82					
Trowbridge	22	3	13	15	50	10	33	17	27	24	5	30	29	Trowbridge,	98				
Warminster	18	11	21	15	38	17	42	9	35	31	13	22	36	8	Warminster,	97			
Westbury	20	7	17	15	34	14	39	13	25	28	9	26	33	4	Westbury,	100			
Wilton	7	30	20	31	45	21	43	13	41	27	27	3	36	27	19	23	Wilton,	85	
Wotton Bassett	32	22	9	12	3	16	11	42	10	15	17	39	0	22	36	26	37	Wotton Bassett.	89

# AN INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

WILTSHIRE is situated in the Province of CANTERBURY and the Diocese of SALISBURY.

Bounded by	Extent	Contains	Sends to Parliament <i>Viz.</i>	Produce & Manufactures
Gloucestershire, N. W.	In length 54 miles.	29 Hundreds	34 Representatives,	The manufacture of Superfine broad Cloths, Kerseymeres, & Fancy Cloths. Also Linen, Cotton, Gloves, and Cutlery.
Berkshire, N. E.	In breadth 34 miles.	304 Parishes	2 for the County	
Somersetshire, S. W.	And about 150 miles in cir- cumference.	1 City	2 Salisbury	Great numbers of Sheep and Cattle are bred in this county, and fed for the London markets.
Dorsetshire, S.		25 Market Towns	2 Devises	
Hampshire, S. E.		15 Boroughs	2 Marlborough	
		29,462 Houses	2 Clippenham	
		185,107 Inhabit- ants	2 Calne	
			2 Malmesbury	
			2 Cricklade	
			2 Hindon	
			2 Old Sarum	
			2 Heytesbury	
			2 Westbury	
			2 Wotton Bassett	
			2 Luggershall	
			2 Wilton	
			2 Downton	
			2 Great Bedwin	

The sum of 148,661*l.* was raised in this County for the Maintenance of the Poor in the year, ending Easter, 1803.

# AN ITINERARY OF THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS, IN WILTSHIRE.

In which is included the STAGES, INNS, and  
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

*N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through ; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages ; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.*

## BATH TO HUNGERFORD,

THROUGH CHIPPENHAM, CALNE, AND MARLBOROUGH.

Bath to			
Bathcaston	2	2	
Newbridge	1	3	<i>Boundary of this county.</i>
Box	2	5	
Haslebury Hill	1	6	
— — —	1	7	<i>Pickwick Lodge, C. Dickenson, esq. L</i>
Lower Pickwick	1	8	<i>Pickwick-house, Geo. Searle Baylisfe, esq. L</i>
— — —	1	9	<i>Corsham-house, P. Methuen, esq. R</i>
— — —	3	12	<i>Ivy-house, Mat. Humphreys, esq. R</i>
CHIPPENHAM	1	13	<i>Inns—White Hart, and Red Lion.</i>
Derry Hill	2	15	
Red Hill	1	16	
Ragg Lane	1	17	<i>Bowwood Park, Marquis of Lansdown, R</i>
CALNE	2	19	<i>Inns—Catherine Wheel, and White Hart.</i>
Quemerford	1	20	
— — —	1	21	<i>Blacklands, T. Maundrell, esq. R.</i>

—	—	—	1	22	Compton-house, John Walter Heneage, Esq. L
Cherhill			1	23	
Cherhill Common					
—	—	—	1	26	Arbury House. Beckhampton Inn.
West Kennet			1	27	
Overton			1	28	
Fyfield			2	30	
MARLBOROUGH			3	33	Inns—Castle, Three Tuns, Swan, and Angel.
Savernake Forest			2	35	
—	—	—	1	36	Tottenham Park, Earl of Aylesbury, R
—	—	—	1	37	Ramsbury Manor, Sir F. B. Jones, bart. L
Froxfield			3	40	
HUNGERFORD			3	43	

## BATH TO HUNGERFORD,

THROUGH MELKSHAM, DEVIZES, AND MARLBOROUGH.

BATH to					
Batheaston			2	2	
Bathford			1	3	
Ashley Wood					Boundary of this county.
—	—	—	1	1	
Atford			3	7	
—	—		2	9	Shaw Hill, S. Heathcote, esq. L
MELKSHAM			2	11	Inn—King's Arms.
—	—		3	14	Scend, A. Awdry, esq. Lady W. Seymour. R
DEVIZES			5	19	Inns—Castle, & Black Bear.
—	—	—	1	20	Southbroom-house, Jos. Eyles Heathcote, esq. R. New Park, late J. Sutton, esq. L.
Beckhampton Inn			6	26	Arbury House, L
West Kennet			1	27	

Overton	1	28	
Fyfield	2	30	
MARLBOROUGH	3	33	Inns— <i>Castle, Three Tuns, Swan, and Angel.</i>
Savernake Forest	2	35	
— — —	1	36	<i>Tottenham Park, Earl of Aylesbury. R</i>
— — —	1	37	<i>Ramsbury, Sir F.B. Jones, L</i>
Froxfield	3	40	
HUNGERFORD	3	43	Inn— <i>Three Swans.</i>

CHIPPENHAM TO ANDOVER,  
THROUGH DEVIZES.

CHIPPENHAM to			
Derry Hill	2	2	
Red Hill	1	3	
Ragg Lane	1	4	<i>Bowwood Park, Marquis of Lansdown, L</i>
Sandy Lane			<i>Whetnam, Col. Money, L</i>
Idith Marsh	2	6	<i>Spy Park, Sir A. Bayntun, R</i>
— — —	1	7	<i>Ford-house, H. Wyatt, esq. L</i>
Rowd.	1	8	
DEVIZES	2	10	Inns— <i>Black Bear, &amp; Castle.</i>
— — —	1	11	<i>Southbroom-house, Jos. Eyles Heathcote, esq. R</i>
— — —	1	12	<i>Stert, John Gale, gent. R</i>
Lide	1	13	
— — —	1	14	<i>Wedhampton, F. Poore, esq. L</i>
— — —	1	15	<i>Connock, G. Warriner, esq. L.</i>
Charlton	3	18	
Rushall	1	19	<i>Sir John Poore, burt. L.</i>
Uphaven	1	20	
West Everley	4	24	[ <i>Astley, esq. L.</i>
East Everley	1	25	<i>Everley-house, F. Dugdale</i>
— — —	—	—	Inn— <i>Crown</i>
Ludgershall	4	29	<i>Tidworth-house, Tho. Asheton Smith, esq. R</i>

Enter Hampshire	1	30	Biddesden-house, Thos. Everett, esq. R
— — —	1	31	Rodenham, Sir John Pollen, bart. L
Cow Down	1	32	Ampport-house, G. Powlett, esq. R
Weyhill	1	33	
ANDOVER	4	37	Inns—Star & Garter, White Hart, & Catharine Wheel.

## HUNGERFORD TO CRANBORNE,

THROUGH SALISBURY.

HUNGERFORD to			
Boundary of Wilts	1	1	
— — —	1	2	Standen, G. Stonehouse, esq. R
Westcomb Hill	5	7	
Collingborn Sheer	3	10	
— — —	4	14	Tidworth-house, Tho. Asheton Smith, esq. L
— — —	4	10	Bulford, R. D. Southby, esq. R
Beacon Hill	2	20	Amesbury House, Duke of Queensberry, R
Amesbury Down	5	25	Old Sarum.
SALISBURY	2	27	Inns—Antelope, White Hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, & Three Seans.
— — —	—	—	
East Harnham	1	28	
Harnham Hill			
Coombe Basset	2	30	
Coombe Common			
Tippett	5	35	
Enter Dorset	1	36	
CRANBORNE	2	33	Inn—Shaftesbury Arms.

## HIGHWORTH TO FORDINGBRIDGE,

THROUGH SWINDON, MARLBOROUGH, AND SALISBURY.

HIGHWORTH to			
— — —	2	2	Warnford Place, Rev. Dr. Warnford, L. Stanton-house, R
Stratton	1	3	
Stratton Green	1	4	

—	—	—	1	5	Swindon-house, Ambrose Goddard, esq. L
SWINDON			1	6	Inns—Bell, and the Crown
Wroughton			2	8	W. Codrington, esq R
—	—	—	1	9	Burdrop-house, T. Haverfield, esq. L. Overton, Mrs. Calley, R
Barbury Down			3	12	
MARLBOROUGH			4	16	Inns—Castle, Three Tuns, Swan, and Angel.
Savernake Forest			2	18	
—	—	—	2	20	Tottenham Park, Earl of Aylesbury, L
Steep Green			1	21	
Burbage			1	22	
East Everly			6	28	Everly-house, Fra. Dugdale Astley, esq. R
			—	—	Inn—The Crown
Salisbury Plain					
Old Sarum			13	41	
SALISBURY			2	43	Inns—Antelope, White Hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, & Three Swans.
Bodenham			2	45	Longford Castle, Earl of Radnor, L
—	—	—	1	46	New Hall, W. Batt, esq. R
Charlton Street			1	47	Standlynch, H. Dawkins, esq. L
—	—	—	1	48	Barford-house, Lord Malmsbury, L
Week			1	49	Downton-house, — Bryun, esq. L.
Enter Hampshire			1	50	
—	—	—	1	51	Hale-house, Mrs. May, L. Breamore-house, Sir Edward Hulse, bart. R
Breamore			1	52	
Burgate			2	54	Burgate-house, Hon. C. Bulkeley, L
FORDINGBRIDGE			1	55	Inn—The Greyhound.



# ITINERARY OF THE MALMESBURY TO SHAFTESBURY,

THROUGH CHIPPENHAM, MELKSHAM, WESTBURY,  
AND WARMINSTER.

MALMESBURY to			
— — —	1	1	<i>Cole Park, P. Lovell, esq. L</i>
Corston	1	2	
Lower Stanton St.			
Quinton	2	4	
— — —	1	5	<i>Draycot-house, Sir J. Long, bart. L</i>
— — —	2	7	<i>Langley-house, R. Ashe, esq. L</i>
— — —	2	9	<i>Harden Huish, S. Branthwayt esq. R.</i>
CHIPPENHAM	1	10	<i>Monkton-house, Esmead Edridge, esq. L</i>
			<i>Inn—White Hart, &amp; Red Lion</i>
Notton	2	12	<i>Notton-house, J. Airdry, esq. R</i>
			<i>Lackham, J. Montague, esq. L</i>
Laycock	1	13	
Benecar	2	15	
MELKSHAM	1	16	<i>Inn—King's Arms</i>
Sevington	3	19	
— — —	3	22	<i>Roxd Ashton, R. Long, esq. L</i>
— — —	2	24	<i>Heywood-house, Dr. Ludlow L</i>
WESTBURY	1	25	<i>Inn—Lord's Arms</i>
Westbury Leigh	3	28	<i>Paul Phipps, esq. R</i>
WARMINSTER	1	29	<i>Inns—Angel, &amp; Lord's Arms</i>
Sambourn	1	30	
Crockerton	1	31	
Longbridge Deveril	1	32	
East Knoyle	7	39	
— — —	1	40	<i>Pyt-house, Tho. Benet, esq. L</i>
— — —	2	42	<i>Motcombe, W. Grant, esq. R</i>
Enter Dorsetshire			
SHAFTESBURY	2	44	<i>Inns—Three Swans and Red Lion.</i>



COUNTY OF WILTS.  
FROME TO SALISBURY,  
THROUGH WARMINSTER.

11

FROME to			
Wall Bridge	1	1	
Minety Bridge	1	2	
Enter Wiltshire	1	3	Longleat, Marq. of Bath, R
Corsley Heath			
Whitburn	1	4	
Buckley	1	5	
WARMINSTER	2	7	Inns— <i>The Angel and Lord's Arms</i>
Boreham	2	9	
— — —	1	10	<i>Bishopstrow-house, Mrs. Temple</i>
— — —	1	11	<i>Norton-house, T. Benet, esq. R</i>
HEYTESBURY	1	12	<i>Heytesbury-house, Sir W. A.</i>
Lower Knooke	1	13	<i>Court, bart. L</i>
Codford St. Peter	2	15	
Codford St. Mary	1	16	
Deptford Inn	2	18	<i>Deptford Inn</i>
— — —	1	19	<i>Bathampton-house, William</i>
Steeple Langford	1	20	<i>Moody, esq. R</i>
Stapleford	2	22	
Stoford	1	23	
South Newton	1	24	
Chilhampton	1	25	<i>Wilton-house, Earl of Pembroke, R</i>
Foulston	1	26	<i>Edward Hinxman, esq. R</i>
— — —	2	28	<i>Bemerton, Rev. Mr. Core, R</i>
SALISBURY.	1	29	Inns— <i>Antelope, White Hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, &amp; Three Swars</i>

FROME TO DEVIZES,

THROUGH TROWBRIDGE AND SEEND.

FROME to			
— — —	1	1	<i>North hill, T. B. Winter, esq. R</i>
			<i>Frome Fields, P. Stevens, esq. L</i>
Oakford	1	2	

Beckington	1	3	<i>Standerwick Court, Harry Edgell, esq. R</i>
Rode	2	5	<i>Boundary of this County</i>
Southwick	3	8	
Upper Studley	1	9	
TROWBRIDGE	1	10	<i>Inn—Three WoolPacks, and George</i>
Hilperton	2	12	
Littleton	2	14	
— — —	1	15	<i>Seend Rew, T. Locke, esq. L</i>
SEEND			<i>Ambrose Awdry, esq. R</i>
Seend Green	1	16	<i>Lady W. Seymour</i>
DEVIZES	4	20	<i>Inns—Black Bear, &amp; Castle</i>

## SHAFTESBURY TO SALISBURY.

SHAFTESBURY to			
<i>Boundary of Wilts</i>	1	1	
Ludwell	1	2	
— — —	1	3	<i>Donhead Hall, John Kneller, esq. L. Fern, T. Grove, esq. R</i>
— — —	2	5	<i>Wardour Castle, Lord Arundell, L. Ashcombe, Hon. J. E. Arundell, R</i>
White Sheet Hill	1	6	
Salisbury Plain			
— — —	6	12	<i>Compton-house, John H. Penruddocke, esq. L</i>
Salisbury Race Course	4	16	
Harnham Hill	2	18	
East Harnham			
SALISBURY	1	19	<i>Inns—Antelope, White Hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, &amp; Three Swans.</i>

## FROME TO SWINDON,

## THROUGH WESTBURY AND DEVIZES.

FROME to			
<i>Boundary of Wilts</i>	2	2	
Chapmanslade	1	3	
Westbury Leigh	3	6	<i>Paul Phipps, esq. L</i>
WESTBURY	1	7	<i>Inn—Lord's Arms</i>

Bratton	2	9	<i>W. Aldridge Ballard, esq. L</i>
Edington	1	10	.
— — —	1	11	<i>Baynton, W. Long, esq. L</i>
— — —	2	13	<i>Stoke Park, J. Smith, esq. L</i>
Little Cheverell	1	14	
Littleton Pannell	1	15	<i>Cleeve Hill, H. C. Vince, esq. R</i>
Pottern Wick	2	17	
Pottern	1	18	<i>Eastwell, W. H. Grubbe, esq. L</i>
DEVIZES	2	20	<i>Inns—Castle, &amp; Black Bear</i>
— — —	1	21	<i>New Park, Jas. Sutton, esq. L</i>
			<i>Southbroom-house, Jos. Eyles</i>
			<i>Heathcole, esq. R</i>
Beckhampton Inn	6	27	
<i>Crossthegreat Bath</i>			
<i>and London Road</i>			
Avebury	1	28	<i>Arthur Jones, esq. L</i>
Broad Hinton	5	33	
— — —	2	35	<i>Overton, Mrs. Calley, R</i>
Wroughton	1	36	
SWINDON	5	39	<i>Inns—Bell, and Crown</i>

## WINCANTON TO SALISBURY,

THROUGH MERE AND HINDON.

WINCANTON TO			
<i>Enter this County</i>	3	3	
Bourton			
Silton	1	4	
— — —	1	5	<i>Stourhead-house, Sir H. Colt</i>
			<i>Hour, bart L</i>
— — —	1	6	<i>Zeals-house, Mrs. Grove, R</i>
MERE	1	7	<i>Inn—New</i>
Chaddenwylch			
Down	1	8	
Willoughby Hedge	3	11	
HINDON	2	13	<i>Inns—Lamb, and Swan</i>

Berwick St. Leonard's	2	15	
Bishop's Fonthill	1	16	<i>Fonthill-house, W. Beckford, esq.</i>
Chilmark	2	18	
Upper Teffont	1	19	
— — —	1	20	<i>Marshwood-house, L. Dinton-house, W. Wyndham, esq. R</i>
— — —	1	21	<i>Compton-house, J. H. Penruddocke, esq. R</i>
— — —	1	22	<i>Hurdcot, Mrs. Powell, R</i>
Barford St. Martin	1	23	
North Barcombe	1	24	
Ugford	1	25	
Linchinton			
Wilton	1	26	<i>Wilton-house, Earl of Pembroke, R</i>
— — —	1	27	<i>Foulston. E. Hinxman, esq. R</i>
— — —	1	28	<i>Bemerton, Rev. Mr. Coxe, R</i>
Fisherton			
SALISBURY	1	29	<i>Inns—See page 8.</i>

## BRUTON TO ANDOVER,

THROUGH DEPTFORD INN, AND AMESBURY.

BRUTON to Kilminster	7	7	<i>Stourhead-house, Richard Colt Hoare, esq. R</i>
<i>Enter this County</i>	2	9	
The Hut	1	10	
Willoughby Hedge	3	13	
Chicklade	2	15	
New Inn	1	16	
Willey	3	19	
DEPTFORD INN	1	20	<i>Deptford Inn.</i>
<i>Cross the Sarum Road</i>			<i>Bathampton-house, William Moody, esq. R</i>
— — —	7	27	<i>Stonehenge.</i>

AMESBURY	2	29	<i>The George Inn.</i>
— — —	4	33	<i>Chellerton-house, R</i>
<i>Enter Hampshire</i>	1	34	
— — —	2	36	<i>Quarley-house, Richard Cor,</i> <i>esq. R</i>
Mullen Pond	1	37	<i>Amport-house, George Pow-</i> <i>lett, esq. R</i>
Weyhill	2	39	
ANDOVER	4	43	<i>Inns—Star and Garter,</i> <i>White Hart, and</i> <i>Catharine Wheel, &amp;c.</i>

END OF THE ITINERARY.



# A CORRECT LIST OF THE FAIRS IN WILTSHIRE.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Amesbury</i>—May 17, June 22, December 17, horses, sheep, pigs, and horned cattle.</p> <p><i>Barwick Hill</i>—Novem. 6, cattle and sheep.</p> <p><i>Bradford</i>—Trinity Monday, cattle &amp; millinery.</p> <p><i>Bradford Leigh</i>—August 25, sheep and horses.</p> <p><i>Britford</i>—August 12, sheep.</p> <p><i>Calne</i>—May 6, July 22, toys.</p> <p><i>Castle Combe</i>, May 4, horned cattle and sheep.</p> <p><i>Chilmark</i>—July 30, cattle, cheese, and horses.</p> <p><i>Chippenham</i>—May 17, June 22, October 29, Decem. 11, cattle, sheep, pigs, &amp; horses.</p> <p><i>Clack</i>—April 5, October 10, cattle, sheep, horses, and cheese.</p> <p><i>Collingbourn Ducis</i>—December 11, horses, cows and sheep.</p> <p><i>Corsham</i>—March 7, Sept. 4, cattle, sheep, and horses.</p> <p><i>Corsley Heath</i>—August 4, cattle and cheese.</p> <p><i>Cricklade</i>—Second Thursday in April, sheep, cows and calves—Sept. 21, chapmans' goods.</p> <p><i>Devizes</i>—Feb. 13, April 20, Holy Thursday, July</p> | <p>5, October 2, October 20, chapmans goods, horses and sheep, wool and hogs.</p> <p><i>Dilton Marsh</i>—September 24, cattle, horses, and cheese.</p> <p><i>Downton</i>—April 23, Oct. 2, sheep and horses.</p> <p><i>Great Bedwin</i>—April 23, July 26, horses, cows, sheep, and hardware.</p> <p><i>Heytesbury</i>—May 14, cattle and sheep.—Sept. 25, toys.</p> <p><i>Highworth</i>—August 12, October 10, October 29, cattle, sheep and pigs.</p> <p><i>Hindon</i>—May 19, October 29, cattle and cheese.</p> <p><i>Kingsdown</i>, near Bath—Sept. 22, cattle &amp;c.</p> <p><i>Laycock</i>—July 7, cattle &amp;c. December 21, horses, cows and sheep.</p> <p><i>Ludgershall</i>—August 5.</p> <p><i>Maiden Bradley</i>—May 6, October 2, do. &amp; cheese.</p> <p><i>Malmesbury</i>—March 23, April 23, June 5, cattle and horses.</p> <p><i>Marlborough</i>—July 10, November 23, cattle, sheep, and pedlary.</p> <p><i>Mere</i>—May 17, Oct. 10, cattle, sheep, and horses.</p> <p><i>Melksham</i>—July 27, cattle, sheep, and horses.</p> |
|--|--|

<i>Norlase</i> —April 23, cattle and pedlary.	<i>Tan-Hill</i> , near <i>Devizes</i> —August 6, horses, cheese, and sheep.
<i>North Bradley</i> Sept. 15, cattle and cheese.	<i>Trowbridge</i> — August 5, pedlary.
<i>Pewsey</i> —September 15.	<i>Upharch</i> —October 29, horses, cows, and sheep.
<i>Ramsbury</i> —May 14, Oct. 10, horses, cows, sheep & toys.	<i>Warminster</i> — April 22, August 11, October 26, cattle, sheep, swine and cheese.
<i>Salisbury</i> —Monday before the Fifth of April, Whit Monday and Tuesday. Oct. 21, Twelfth-Market horses and pedlary.—Tuesday after January 6, cattle and woollen cloth.	<i>Westbury</i> —First Friday in Lent, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, pedlary.
<i>Sherston</i> —May 12, Oct. 2, cattle.	<i>Whitchbury</i> — November 17, hogs.
<i>Steeple Ashton</i> —September 19, cheese.	<i>Wilton</i> —May 4, September 12, sheep.
<i>Swindon</i> —March 31, May 19, September 22, December 8, cattle of all sorts, pigs, and sheep.	<i>Wootton Bassett</i> —April 1, May 6, October 7, cows and pigs.
	<i>Yarborough Castle</i> —Oct. 4, cattle, sheep, horses, and swine.

### THE QUARTER SESSIONS

For the County of Wilts, are held as follows :

The First Week after Epiphany, at *Devizes*.

The First Week after the Close of Easter, at *Salisbury*.

The First Week after the Translation of Thomas-a-Becket, or July 7, at *Warminster*.

And the First Week after Michaelmas-Day, at *Marlborough*.



A  
LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL WORKS

That have been Published

*In illustration of the Topography and Antiquities of*  
THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

In April 1801 was published, in two volumes, octavo, "The Beauties of Wiltshire, displayed in Statistical, Historical, and Descriptive Sketches; illustrated by Views of the principal Seats, &c. &c." by Mr. John Britton. This very pleasing work is intended to form a complete account of the county, which had not been attempted exclusively before; the engravings are extremely well executed, and the whole well entitled to the approbation of the public.

A translation of the Domesday of the County has been published by Mr. Windham.

"At a meeting of Gentlemen at Devizes, for choosing a Knight of the Shire, March 1659, it was proposed that a Survey of this County should be taken, after the manner of Dugdale's Warwickshire. Mr. Yorke, a counsellor, undertook the Middle Division; Mr. Aubrey the North; and T. Gore and Jeffery Daniel, Esquires, and Sir John Ernely offered their assistance. Judge Nichols had taken notes of all the deeds he had met with; but both his and Mr. Yorke's papers seem to have been lost at their deaths, as we learn from Aubrey's "Miscellanies on several curious subjects," page 22; in page 47 of which is a Letter concerning the Village of Newton. This seems to be the book Aubrey refers to in the Preface to his Miscellanies, 1696; which, he says, is left half finished, and devolves the care of it to Bishop Tanner. The MS. from whence Bishop Gibson inserted some things in his edition of Camden, is entitled "An Essay towards a description of the North Division of Wiltshire, by me John Aubrey, of Easton Pierse. fol. and repositied in the Museum at Oxford. He designed a Natural History of this County, the plan of which, divided into chapters, is among others MSS."—*Gough's British Topography*.  
Bishop



Bishop Tauner, the learned author of the *Monasticon*, communicated to the public, in a folio half sheet, in 1694, his plan for a very comprehensive History of Wiltshire; which, very unfortunately for the lovers of Topography, he was prevented, by the distance of his preferments from the county, from prosecuting and finishing. The materials he collected are most probably among his other valuable collections in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

"The History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury and the Abbey Church of Bath." to which is prefixed "An Architectonical Account of this Cathedral, by Sir Christopher Wren, Lond. 1719," 1723, 8vo. At the end is added a very scarce piece, which was printed in folio, and suppressed in 1683, occasioned by a controversy between Dean Prince and Bishop Ward, concerning the right of disposal of the Prebends of Sarum.

"*Antiquitales Sarisburiensis* : containing, 1. a Dissertation on the ancient Coins found at Old Sarum. 2. The Salisbury Ballad. 3. The History of Old Sarum, from the arrival of the Romans to its final decay: illustrated with curious medals, found there, and a plan of the ancient city, as it was in the reign of King Stephen. 4. Historical memoirs relative to the city of New Sarum. 5. The Lives of the Bishops of Old and New Sarum; to which is added some account of the Choral Bishops; and the riches of the Cathedral at the Reformation. 6. The Lives of eminent Men, natives of Salisbury. Salisb. 1771." 8vo. This Book, which has considerable merit, was compiled by one Mr. Lechiot, of Ireland, who was sometime curate in the neighbourhood.

"A Series of particular and usefull Observations. made with great diligence and care, upon that admirable Structure the Cathedral Church at Salisbury: calculated for the use &c. &c. by Francis Price, Author of the *British Carpenter* (and Surveyor to this Cathedral) Lond: 1753." 4to. In this is interwoven a translation

translation of a Latin MS. belonging to the Bishop of Salisbury, written by William de Wenda, precentor, at the removal from Old Sarum, and afterwards Dean, giving an account of the building of the present Church, and Pope Honorius' bulls for the same purpose. This work was republished in "A Description of that admirable structure, the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, with the Chapels, Monuments, Grave-Stones, and their Inscriptions. To which is prefixed, an Account of Old Sarum. Illustrated with copper-plates. London, 1774." 4to.

There are many Engravings of Views of Salisbury Cathedral; among the more beautiful are the N. N. W. and E. sides of the Cathedral, by Hollar, for the *Monasticon*, Vol. III. p. 375. A Drawing of the West front by T. Sprat, 1737, among Lord Coleraine's County Views, in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries.

STONEHENGE has exercised the pens of several Writers; among the works published on this subject are the following:

"The most notable Antiquity of Great Britain, vulgarly called Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain. Restored by Inigo Jones, Esq. Architect-General to the late King. Lond. 1655 fol."

"Chora Gigantum; or the most famous Antiquity of Great Britain, vulgarly called Stonehenge, standing on Salisbury Plain, restored to the Danes, by Walter Charleton, Doctor in Physic, and Physician in ordinary to his Majesty. Lond. 1663. 4to.

"Stonehenge; a temple restored to the British Druids. Lond. 1740." folio, by Dr. Stukely.

The best Maps of the County are those which have been published by Mr. Faden, Mr. Carey, and Mr. Smith.

There is a large Map, from an actual survey, by John Andrews and Andrew Drury, 1773; in nineteen imperial sheets, published at two guineas and a half. This map was reduced to one sheet

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

### BOUNDARIES, SITUATION, AND EXTENT.

THIS County in the time of the Romans was part of the territories of the Belgæ. It is supposed that the northern part was inhabited by that tribe of the Belgæ which was distinguished by the name of Cangi; and in the time of the Saxon Heptarchy this county constituted part of the kingdom of the West Saxons. By some early writers Wiltshire is called *Severnina*, and *Provincia Serverorum*; from *Servia*, a name by which Old Sarum was formerly known. It derives its present name from the town of Wilton, which was formerly the most considerable place in the county.

This county is situated in the province of Canterbury, in the diocese of Salisbury, and contains 29 hundreds, one city, and 25 market towns. It is bounded on the N. W. by Gloucestershire; on the N. E. by Berkshire; on the W. by Somersetshire; on the S. by Dorsetshire, and on the S. W. by Hampshire. According to M. T. Davis (whose valuable paper upon the agriculture of the county affords us the most authentic information on that subject) Wiltshire extends in its extreme length fifty-four miles, and in breadth thirty-four miles, and contains about 878,000 acres.

### CLIMATE.

The air of Wiltshire, like that of other counties, is various, according to the different parts of it, but on the whole it is salubrious and agreeable. On the downs, and higher parts of the county, it is sharp and clear; in the valleys mild, even in winter. The face of the country is much diversified in appearance; the northern part, called North Wiltshire, consisting of a rich tract of low land, accompanied by gentle risings, and ornamented by many fine natural streams of water and handsome canals.

The

The middle part is that known by the name of Salisbury Plain, consisting chiefly of downs, which afford a most excellent pasture for sheep. The south-east portion of the county is, in a great part overspread by a broken range of chalk-hills, covered, however, with a very fertile soil, and in the highest state of cultivation.

#### RIVERS.

The principal Rivers are the Thames, the upper Avon, the lower Avon, the Nadder, the Willey, the Bourne, and the Kennet.

The River Thames enters the north part of the county between Cirencester in Gloucestershire and Tetbury, and runs eastward by Cricklade into Berkshire.

That part of the Avon called the lower Avon, enters Wiltshire, near Malinsbury, takes a southern course by Chippenham, where it becomes enlarged by the Calne and other rivulets into a wide stream, and, winding westward by Melksham and Bradford, it leaves the county, and pursues its course through Somersetshire and Gloucestershire towards Bath.

The upper Avon rises among the hills in the middle part of the county, near Devizes, runs southward by the city of Salisbury, where it receives the united streams of the Willey and the Nadder; from hence it flows into Hampshire, and at Christchurch makes its exit into the British Channel.

The Nadder, which derives its name from the Saxon word *Nædre*, an adder, alluding to its serpentine course, rises near Shaftesbury in Dorsetshire upon the western borders of this county, and flowing north-east falls into the Willey at Wilton.

The Willey rises near Warminster, and running south-east, after receiving the Nadder, falls into the Upper Avon on the east side of Salisbury.

The Kennet rises near the source of the upper Avon, and runs eastward by Marlbro', into Berkshire.

The

The lesser Rivers of the county are the Calne, the Were, and the Deverill. This last is remarkable for the circumstance of its diving under ground (like the Guadiana in Spain, and the Mole in Surrey, which take their name from a similar peculiarity) and rising a mile off pursues its course towards Warminster.

### AGRICULTURE.

In describing the Agriculture of Wiltshire we shall pursue Mr. Davis' division of the county into two districts, formed by drawing an irregular line round the foot of the chalky hills, from their entrance into the north-east part of the county from Berkshire to the south-west extremity at Maiden Bradly, thereby including the whole of the Wiltshire Downs, under the name of South Wiltshire, or perhaps more properly South-East Wiltshire, and the remaining part of the county, North or more properly North-West Wiltshire. The general application of the south-east district is to corn-husbandry, and sheep-walks. The north-west district is remarkable for its rich pasture land on the banks of the Down Avon and the Thames, famous for the feeding of cattle and still more so for the most excellent kind of cheese this island can boast.

#### *South-East Division.*

This district contains about 500,000 acres, and is again divided into two principal subdivisions, called Salisbury Plain and Marlborough Downs.

The soil of this district is in a certain degree uniform, differing only in the proportion of its component parts. The hills are chalk, with its usual accompaniment of flint. The land on the side of the hills, from which the flints have been washed, is usually a chalky loam, or rather a dissolved chalk, (provincially called white land) the flatter parts are generally a flinty loam, and the centre of the valleys, next the rivulets, is usually a bed of broken flints, covered with the black earth washed from the hills above,



above; and in some of these, there are veins of peat, formed by the black earth without any mixture of flints. And it necessarily follows, that those parts near the source of the rivulets, where the hills are the steepest, abound mostly with the white land soil, and those near the junction of the rivulets, where the country is of course flattest, abound mostly with the flinty loam. The sides of the hills which have been the most washed, are the thinnest and weakest soil, and the level tops, which have been very little washed, or not washed at all, frequently the deepest and strongest.

“But there are some very singular sand-veins, running through a large portion of this district, which deserve particular notice. One very narrow, but very fertile vein, enters the county at Mere, on the borders of Dorsetshire, and takes a north and north-east direction round the outside edge of the downs, keeping nearly close to their foot, by way of Maiden-Bradley, Warminster, Westbury, and Lavington, towards Devizes, where it meets and unites with a much wider and still more fertile vein, coming down the Pewsey Vale from Burbage.”

“Another vein also enters the county from Dorsetshire, being the continuation of the sand-hill on which Shaftsbury stands, and passes through Donhead, Ansty, Swallowcliffe, Fovant, &c. under the foot of the down, till it is stopped by the high ground in Burcomb Field. This vein is also met by another branch, or rather a ridge of sand hills, coming from West-Knoyle by Stop-Beacon and Ridge, and joining the last-mentioned branch at or near Fovant.”

“There are some instances of strong clays, and clayey loam, on the skirts of this district; but as they make no part of the corn and sheep division of the county, and the quantity of this land is small, and its management is the same as that practised in similar

similar soils in North Wiltshire, it will be needless to say more of it here.

“ These soils, with all their consequent mixtures and variations, may be said to constitute the far greater part of this district.

“ The custom of feeding the commonable lands varies in different parts of this district, as well as the quantity of stock each commoner (or occupier of a yard land) has a right to put ; but in general it is as follows :

“ The common sheep-down is open to the common flock during the summer and autumn. The unsown field (or summer field) is open till it is all ploughed for wheat. The sheep have then only the down, till the harvest is over, and the other fields are clear: they then have those fields and the down, until the winter obliges the owners to give them hay. Until this period they are folded on the arable fields, in a common fold ; but when they begin to eat hay, every commoner finds his own fold and his own hay ; the common shepherd feeding and penning the whole. When the ewes are near yeaning, the owners take them home to their inclosed meadows ; and by the time all the ewes have yeaned, the water-meadows are ready to take them to grass.

“ In some instances, the water-meadows are common for the sheep-stock ; in others, they are private property.

“ When feeding the water-meadows, the sheep are penned on the barley-land ; and by the time the water-mead grass is eaten, and the barley sown, the summer-field (especially if sown with ray-grass) is ready to receive the sheep, where they generally stay till near the shear-time, and then go to the down until the stubble-fields are broken ; at which time (perhaps about the middle of September), they usually put the rams to the ewes. These rams are provided, and the common shepherd paid, at the joint-expence of the commoners.

“As in the state of commonage (where there must necessarily be a great scarcity of winter-food) it is necessary to reduce this sheep-stock before winter, it is customary to sell off the old ewes, and the wether lambs, about Michaelmas; and put out the ewe lambs to winter, either on pasture-land, or turnips, in other parts of the county, and frequently in the adjacent counties.

“These lambs are usually put out from the 10th of October to the 5th of April; and yet, after this reduction of stock, the common-field farmers of this district are frequently obliged to buy hay for the rest, which they are often under the necessity of fetching from 10 to 15 miles.

“The Cow-commons (called Cow-downs) are frequent in the undivided parts of this district, but not general. They were more general formerly than now; many of them having been, at different times, turned into sheep-commons by consent of the commoners. These cow-downs are usually the best and most level parts of the down-lands, and are sometimes worth from 5s. to near 10s. per acre.

“The common herd of cows begin to feed the cow-downs early in May (usually Holy-Rood-Day), and finish when the fields are clear of corn. At the beginning and end of the season, they are driven to the down in the morning, and brought back in the evening; but in the heat of summer, they are only kept on the down during the night, and in the morning they are brought back into the villages, where they feed the lanes and small marshes by the river-side (if such there be), till after the evening milking. When the stubble-fields are open, the cows have a right to feed them jointly with the sheep; and if there are common meadows (whether watered meadows or not), they have an exclusive right to feed them, till the end of the commoning season (usually St. Martin's Day, 11th November, O. S.), when the owners take them home to the straw-yards.



straw-yards. After the cows leave the cow-down, to go into the stubble-fields, it becomes common for the sheep-flock, during all, or a certain part of the winter, when it is again laid up for the cows."

### *Water-Meadows.*

"There is, perhaps, no part of this kingdom where the system of watering meadows is so well understood, and carried to so great perfection, as in this district. This, which is so justly called by Mr. Kent 'the greatest and most valuable of all improvements,' has been in general practice during the last century; and at present there is scarcely a river or brook in the district, that is not applied in some way or other to this purpose.

"The first kind of Water-meadows is called in Wiltshire, 'Catch-work Meadows;' and the latter, 'Flowing Meadows.' The latter are by far the most general in this district. The catch-water meadow is made by turning a spring, or small stream, along the side of a hill, and thereby watering the land between the New Cut (or, as it is provincially called, the Main Carriage) and the original water-course, which now becomes the 'main drain.' This is sometimes done in particular instances, merely by making the new cut level, and stopping it at the end, so that when it is full, the water may run out at the side, and flood the land below it. But as the water would soon cease to run equally for any great length, and would wash the land out in gutters, it has been found necessary to cut small parallel trenckes, or carriages, at distances of 20 or 30 feet, to catch the water again; and each of these, being likewise stopped at its end, lets the water over its side, and distributes it until it is caught by the next, and so on, over all the intermediate beds, to the main drain at the bottom of the meadow, which receives the water, and carries it to water another meadow below; or, if it can be so contrived, another part of the same meadow on a lower level.

“To draw the water out of these parallel trenches or carriages, and lay the intermediate beds dry, a narrow deep drain crosses them at right angles, at about every nine or ten pole’s length, and leads from the main carriage at top, to the main drain at the bottom of the meadow.

“When this meadow is to be watered, the ends of the carriages adjoining the cross-drains are stopped with turf dug on the spot, and the water is thrown over as much of the meadow as it will cover well, at a time which the watermen called ‘a pitch of work;’ and when it is necessary to lay this pitch dry, they take out the turves, and let the water into the drains, and proceed to water another pitch.

“This kind of water-meadow is seldom expensive; the stream of water being usually small and manageable, few hatches are necessary; and the land lying on a declivity, much less manual labour is required to throw the water over it regularly, and particularly *to get it off again*, than in the flowing meadows. The expence of making such a meadow is usually from three to five pounds per acre; the improvement, frequently, from 15s. an acre, to at least 40s. The annual expence of keeping up the works, and watering the meadow, which is usually done by the acre, seldom so high as 7s. 6d. per acre.

“Flowing Meadows require much more labour and system in their formation. The land applicable to this purpose being frequently a flat morass, the first object to be considered is, how the water is to got off, when once brought on; and in such situation this can seldom be done without throwing up the land in high ridges, with deep drains between them. A main carriage being then taken out of the river at a higher level, so as to command the tops of these ridges, the water is carried by small trenches or carriages along the top of each ridge, and, by means of moveable stops of earth, is thrown over on each side, and received in the drains below; from whence it

is collected into a main drain, and carried on to water other meadows, or other parts of the same meadow below. One tier of these ridges being usually watered at once, is generally called ‘a pitch of work;’ and it is usual to make the ridges 30 or 40 feet wide; or, if water is abundant, perhaps 60 feet, and nine or ten poles in length, or longer, according to the strength and plenty of the water.

“The number of acres of land in this district, under this kind of management, has been computed, and with a tolerable degree of accuracy, to be between 15 and 20,000 acres.

“The management of Water-meadows is as follows:

“As soon as the after-grass is eaten off as bare as can be, the manager of the mead (provincially, ‘the drowner’) begins cleaning out the main drain, then the main carriage, and then proceeds to ‘right up the works;’ that is, to make good all the water-carriages that the cattle have trodden in, so as to have one tier or pitch of work ready for ‘drowning;’ and which is then put under water (if water be plenty enough), during the time the drowner is righting up the next pitch. In the flowing meadows this work is, or ought to be, done early enough in the autumn, to have the whole mead ready to catch, if possible, ‘the first floods after Michaelmas,’ the water being then ‘thick and good;’ being the first washing of the arable land on the sides of the chalk-hills, as well as of the dirt from the roads, &c.

The length of this autumn watering cannot always be determined, as it depends on situations and circumstances; but if water can be commanded in plenty, the rule is to give it a ‘thorough good soaking at first, perhaps a fortnight or three weeks, with a dry interval of a day or two; and sometimes two fortnights, with a dry interval of a week; and then the works are made as dry as possible, to encourage the growth of grass. This first soaking is to make

the land sink and pitch close together ; a circumstance of great consequence, not only to the quantity, but to the quality of the grass, and, particularly, to encourage the shooting of the new roots, which the grass is continually forming to support the forced growth above.

While the grass grows freely, a fresh watering is not wanted, but as soon as it flags, the watering may be repeated for a few days at a time, whenever there is an opportunity of getting water, always keeping this fundamental rule in view: ‘ to make the meadows as dry as possible between every watering ;’ and to ‘ stop the water the moment the appearance of any scum on the land shews that it has already had water enough.’

Some meadows that will bear the water three weeks in October, November, or December, will, perhaps, not bear it a week in February or March, and sometimes scarcely two days in April or May.

In the catch-meadows, watered by springs, the great object is to keep the ‘ works of them’ as dry as possible between the intervals of watering ; and as such situations are seldom affected by floods, and generally have too little water, care is necessary to make the most of the water, by catching and re-using it as often as possible ; and as the top-works of every tier or pitch will be liable to get more of the water than those lower down, care should be taken to give it to the latter a longer time, so as to make them as equal as possible.

It has already been said, that the great object in this district of an early crop of water-meadow-grass, is to enable the farmer to breed early lambs.

As soon as the lambs are able to travel with the ewes (perhaps about the middle of March), they begin to feed the water-meadows. Care is, or ought to be taken, to make the meadow as dry as possible for some days before the sheep are let in.

The grass is hurdled out daily, in portions, according

cording to what the number of sheep can eat in a day, to prevent their trampling the rest; at the same time leaving a few open spaces in the hurdles for the lambs to get through, and feed forward in the fresh grass.

One acre of good grass will be sufficient for 500 couples for a day.

On account of the quickness of this grass, it is not usual to allow the ewes and lambs to go into it with empty bellies, nor before the dew is off in the morning.

The hours of feeding are usually from 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning to about four or five in the evening, when the sheep are driven to fold; the fold being, generally, at that time of the year (as has been mentioned before), on the barley fallow; and the great object is to have water-mead-grass sufficient for the ewes and lambs, till the barley-sowing is ended.

As soon as this first crop of grass is eaten off by the ewes and lambs, the water is immediately thrown over the meadows (at this time of the year, two or three days over 'each pitch,' is generally sufficient), and it is then made perfectly dry, and laid up for a hay-crop. Six weeks are usually sufficient for the growth of the crop. It seldom requires eight; and there have been instances of great crops being produced in five.

The hay of water-meadows, although large and coarse in its nature, if cut young, and made well, has a peculiarly nourishing milky quality, either for ewes or dairy cows.

The cows remain in the meadows till the drowner begins to prepare for the winter watering.

Water-meadows are reckoned to be perfectly safe for sheep in the spring, even upon land that would rot sheep if it were not watered; but in the autumn the best water-meadows are supposed to be dangerous. This circumstance obliges the farmer to keep  
a few



a few dairy cows to feed the water-meadows in autumn, and to provide artificial grasses, or other green crops, for their sheep, during that period."

*Paring and Burning.*

Paring and burning land is not in general use in this district of Wiltshire, in preparing old arable land for a crop; but is frequently, indeed almost universally used, in breaking up new down-lands.

*North-West District.*

The soil of this district, though not so uniform as that of South Wilts, may, nevertheless, be reduced to a few leading features, and those, in general, may be better defined by a description of the sub-strata, or under-soils, than by any peculiar characteristics of the upper stratum, or top mould.

The under-soil of a large proportion of it (viz. in a direction from Cirencester to Bradford) is a loose irregular mass of that kind of flat broken stones, called in Wiltshire, 'Corn-grate;' of which the greatest part of the Cotswold-Hills, in Gloucestershire, is composed, and which runs, without interruption, through the north-west part of Wiltshire, to its termination at Frome, in Somersetshire: the stones being in some places thin enough for slates to cover houses; in others, laying in large flat beds, fit for pavement, and in some assuming the shape and qualities of free-stone; but, in general, lying in those loose, flat, broken pieces, so well adapted to building the dry fence-walls, in common use on Gloucestershire-Hills, and in many parts of this District, and lying usually in horizontal beds, mixed with earth.

The top-soil of this rock, or rather mass of stones, is chiefly that kind of reddish, calcareous loam, mixed with irregular, flat, broken stones, usually called 'Stone-brash.'

The goodness of this soil varies very much, according to its comparative depth to the rock, and according to the absence or presence of an intervening vein of cold blue clay. This clay is of a marly appearance

appearance, but in general not sufficiently calcareous to be valuable as manure, and its presence is obvious to every traveller, by its natural and spontaneous production of oak-trees; while its total absence, or, at least, its lying very deep, is as strongly denoted by the spontaneous and plentiful production of beautiful elms.

The north-west verge of the county, viz. from near Cirencester, by Malinsbury, and on the west side of the road from London to Bath, may be truly called the Cotswold part of Wiltshire.

Its external appearance, and internal component parts, are nearly the same with the Cotswold-Hills of Gloucestershire; except where the vein of clay lies so near the surface as to make it colder.

This part is, on account of the thinness and looseness of its soil, usually, and in many instances necessarily, kept in an arable state; while the adjoining land, viz. about Chippenham, and from thence southward, through Melksham and Trowbridge, which happens to have a greater depth of soil, and has a pure warm rock, without the intervening vein of cold clay, is capable of grazing the largest oxen, and is, perhaps, one of the most fertile parts of the county, unless, possibly, the vein of gravel next described may be excepted.

There is a vein of gravel, of a most excellent small, pebbly, shelly kind, and in general covered with a good depth of rich loam, which runs in a broken line from Melksham, through Chippenham, to Cricklade; but its greatest body extends from Tytherton, through Christian-Malford and Dantzey, to Somerford, and, perhaps, the richest part of it is at or near Dantzey.

It is a most excellent under-soil, warming and drying the top-mould; and it is only to be lamented, that its quantity in this district is so small. It is used for roads and walks, and when washed or screened,

screened, for drains in the cold clay-lands which border upon it.

There are two principal veins of sand in this district. They are in general red, and of a sharp, loose, gravelly texture, and of course not so fertile as the tough close sands of South Wiltshire. One of these runs from Redburn, by Seagry, Draycott, and Sutton Benger, to Langley-Burrell, near Chippenham, and another begins at the opposite corresponding Hill, at Charlcot, and runs through Bremhill to Bromham.

From this last vein there are two detached masses at Rawd and Seend to the south, and, probably, the detached masses appearing at different places to the north of it, viz. between Charlcot and Swindon, are parts of the same vein.

All these detached masses have a mixture of some other soils, and are generally more fertile than the principal veins. Under the sand-land, at Swindon, lies a singular rock of stone, of a most excellent quality, serving equally, in its different beds, for the purpose of building houses. paving, and recovering them.

The greatest part of the residue of the soil of this district, and particularly from Highworth, by Wotton Bassett to Clack, lies on a hard close rock, of a rough irregular rustic kind of bastard limestone, of very little use but for the roads. The soil over this kind of stone is various, but generally cold, owing to its own retentive nature, and to the frequent intervention of a vein of clay.

Bradon Forest (Crickdale and Mahmsbury) is an exception to the whole, it is a cold iron clay to the very surface; so bad as to be called, by way of distinction, "Bradon land," and was never so well applied as when in its original state of wood-land.

This district is for the most part inclosed, though not entirely so, there being still a few common-fields remaining,



remaining and some commons, but no very extensive tracts of either.

The stone-brash land, on the north-west verge, is chiefly arable, a great part of the residue is in grass land, and a great proportion of that part is applied to the dairy, particularly to the making of cheese; but although so great a portion of this district is now in a state of inclosed pasture land, it does not appear to have been so from any remote period of antiquity.

The straightness of the hedges, the uniformity of the inclosures, and the evident traces of the plough, are convincing proofs that a great portion of it was originally in an open common field arable state, not excepting some of the very best meadow land on the fertile banks of the Avon.

The difficulty of tilling and cropping land naturally wet and heavy, and its aptitude to run quickly to grass, has occasioned, from time to time, great quantities of it to be laid down to pasture, and the increase of the rents of the land, when so applied, occasioned in a great degree by the excellence and increasing fame of the cheese made in this district, has contributed to keep it in that state, and daily to increase its quantity.

The cheese of this district was for years sold in the London markets by the name of Gloucester cheese, but is now well known by the name of "North Wiltshire Cheese."

The occupiers of land in this district have a strong predilection for the dairy, and making cheese, which however begins to give place to grazing on some of the more fertile lands; and Mr. Davis calculates that at least one-fourth of the grass land in this district is applied to this purpose.

#### *Cows.*

It does not appear, at this time, what was the original kind of cow kept in this district, probably the old Gloucestershire cow, a sort now almost extinct;

or, perhaps, as is now the case in Somersetshire, a mixture of all kinds; but the universal rage, for upwards of twenty years past, has been for the long-horned; or, as they are called, the 'north-country' cows; and at this time, perhaps, nine-tenths of the dairies in this district are entirely of that kind. The reasons given for the general introduction of this sort are, the nearness of their situation to the North country breeders, where they can get any quantity they want, at any time, cheaper than they can rear them in a country where land is in general too good, and rented too dear for that purpose; and, especially as, in consequence of the great demand for the Bath and London markets, calves will pay better to be sold for veal, than to be kept for stock.

The reasons given by the dairy farmers, for continuing this kind of stock, are that they can make more cheese from each cow; and that these cows will yield more, when thrown off to be fatted, than any other sort.

Many attempts have been made to supplant the long-horned cows, by introducing the Devonshire kind into this district. The comparative merits of the two species are very warmly contested.

Whatever may be the real comparative merits of the two kinds of cows for the dairy, there is not a doubt but the Devonshire kind are the most proper for fattening; and as to the oxen bred from the two kinds, it would be injustice to the Devonshire oxen, even to make a comparison between them.

#### *Swine.*

Pigs are looked upon to be a necessary appendage to every dairy farm; a great number are bred with the whey and offal of the dairy, and many fatted. Barley-meal, mixed with the whey, is the general fattening food. Pease are not so much used as formerly.

The kind of pig is generally a mixture of the long-eared white with the black African, or Negro pig,

pig; which cross has been found to be a very great improvement.

*Stock fattened for Sale.*

There are great numbers both of cattle and sheep fattened in this district. The cattle consists chiefly of long horned cows, turned off from the dairies, and of oxen brought from different counties, particularly from Devonshire. They are usually bought in very early in the spring, so as, if possible, to be finished with grass; but the largest and latest are taken into the stalls, and finished with dry meat, chiefly hay.

Corn is but little in use for fattening cattle in this district; of late, potatoes have been introduced for winter fattening, dressed with steam, and mixt with cut hay or straw, as is mentioned in the description of the south-east district, and found to answer. Bath takes off many of the fat cattle of this district; many are sold at Salisbury Market for the consumption of Hants, and the adjoining counties, but the greatest part go to Smithfield.

The sheep fattened in this district are usually bought in at the Michaelmas Fairs; the principal object is to fat them, during the winter, on land that will not bear the treading of heavy cattle; sometimes ewes with lamb are bought, with the object of fattening both ewe and lamb in the succeeding summer.

*Sheep.*

Many sheep are bred in this district, part on a folding system, and part purposely for fattening. The number of sheep folded in this district has certainly decreased, and perhaps a still greater decrease will and ought to take place on land which can be better appropriated than under that system.

*Waste Lands.*

Although the greatest part of this district appears to be inclosed, and it contains no very extensive entire tracts of waste land, yet there are numerous

small commons in almost every part of it, in a very neglected unimproved state: and there are many parishes, in which there are still common-fields; and those in a very bad state of husbandry.

The greater part of the common-fields lie on the stone-brash land, on the north west side of the county; and others in the deep strong-land, from Calne by Broadtown, towards Highworth; but the commons lie chiefly in a north-east line from Westbury to Cricklade, through the centre of the richest land in the district.

There are numerous instances in which the common-field arable land lets for less than half the price of the inclosed arable adjoining; and the commons are very seldom reckoned worth any thing, in valuing any estate that has a right on them.

Although great part of this district appears to have been, at no very remote period, in a commonable state, and although the improvements on the lands, heretofore inclosed, has been so very great, the progress of inclosure therein has been very slow during the last fifty years. The reason seems to have been, the very great difficulty and expence of making new roads in a country naturally wet and deep, and where the old public roads were, till within the last few years, almost impassable. But this reason having now nearly ceased, by the introduction of several new turnpike-roads through the district, and by the spirit which now so generally prevails of making good the approaches to them from the interior villages, it is to be hoped, that so great an improvement as that of inclosing and cultivating the commonable lands, will no longer be neglected.

The tracts of commons which are mentioned to lie in a line from Westbury towards Cricklade, are detached and dispersed in numerous pieces, and belong to a variety of parishes, but the whole contents of them is not supposed to exceed 3,000 acres, requiring only to be inclosed and drained to become

come as good pasture land as the surrounding inclosures.

There are a few heaths in this district (and but a few) which might be improved by ploughing, there being but few instances where there are alterative manures, such as lime, chalk, marle, &c. which are properly adapted to them, to be got very near; the greater part of them, particularly those about Bradon Forest, would, in general, pay better for planting.

### *Draining.*

The use of covered drains has been long known in many parts of this district.

They have been made in different modes, with turf, with wood; with stone, but chiefly with the latter on account of the facility of getting it, there being but few parts, without stone of some kind or other, within a moderate distance.

*Stone-drains.*—The stone of the corn-grate rock, which composes the under stratum of so large a portion of this district, is of a peculiarly favourable flat shape for under drains; and no land requires it more than the vein of cold clay, which so frequently accompanies this rock. Much of this kind of land has been so drained and much remains yet to be done. The drains of this stone have been, in general, made about ten inches wide, with perpendicular sides. In some cases, the stones are so placed, as to leave a water course at bottom, by setting two flat stones triangularly to meet at the points; in others, and perhaps a better way, by covering the bottom with a flat stone, and then putting three other flat stones upright, leaving the water to find its own way between them; in both cases, filling up the residue of the drain to the top, or near the top, with loose stones; but the fault in the greater part of the under-drains that have been made, has been, that they have not been made deep enough to answer the purpose of draining the ground effectually; the object of them



having been oftener directed to drain the water from the surface, (where perhaps it does in fact but little injury) instead of draining off the land-springs, which are in, or run upon, the under-stratum, and what are poison to vegetation.

In some few parts of this district, where stones are scarce, and those not of a shape well adapted to the purpose, particularly about Steeple Ashton, much ingenuity is shewn in the different methods of draining which have been introduced.

*Turf-drains.*—In some instances, they have drained land to the depth of three or four feet, by first digging a spit of earth out, and then boring out the ground with a three inch bore, so as to form a pipe of the depth required, and only three inches wide.

If the soil be loose, they have drawn in small bushes or boughs, so as to keep it from running together; but if strong and tough, and where the pipe is not required to be so deep, they have left the pipe open, turning down the first spit upon the shoulders of the pipe, with the grass side underneath.

In other cases, where only small round stones could be got, and those not plentifully, they made the drain taper, from nine inches at top to nothing at the bottom, and perhaps three feet deep, and filled them up, by dropping first the smallest stones, and then the large ones to near the top, and then finishing it by placing a thin turf on the stones.

*Gravel-drains.*—Where gravel is more plentiful than stones, screened or washed gravel has been found to answer the purpose very well.

In all cases, the general opinion seems to be, that those drains have lasted longest which have the least or rather the narrowest water-way left at bottom, as, in that case, the force of the water has been sufficient to clear away any little obstacles that might chance to get in.

*Tithes.*

*Tithes.*

It is with great satisfaction we quote Mr. Davis's words on this head—"It is but common justice to the clergy of the *county of Wilts*, to remark, that so far as respects them, that obstacle can hardly be said to exist. In many of the late inclosures, commutation, either in land or money, have been accepted, and the parishes discharged of tythes. And where tythes are still due, it is a fact, that there is scarcely one clergyman in twenty throughout the county, who takes them in kind; although the laymen, who are in possession of tythes, too often set them the example of refusing to compound them at any price whatever."

We cannot conclude this article without mentioning a peculiar species of grass growing in the parish of Orcheston St. Mary's, in this county, about eleven miles from Salisbury, and nearly six miles N.W. from Amesbury. The meadow which produces this grass is situated in the lowest part of a winding valley, sheltered on every side by gradual but by no means lofty acclivities of chalk. A bed of small loose pebbles, which are all of a silicious nature, with a scanty covering of mould, constitutes the immediate soil. The grass growing in the interstices of the pebbles sends forth strong and succulent shoots, which fall, run along the ground, take root at the shoots or joints, and again shoot, fall, and take root, so that the stalk is frequently eight or ten feet in length from the original root. The produce is extremely luxuriant and fine, though not more than seventeen or eighteen inches in height. The produce of the meadow, which contains about two acres and a-half, has been immense. In a favourable season upwards of twelve tons of hay have been got. Mr. Davis, from accurate observation, very satisfactorily determines this grass to be no other than the *Agrostis Stolonifera*.



## MINES AND MINERALS.

There are no Mines in this county, nor any Mineral Production requiring particular notice. The substratum of a great part of the county is chalk; that of the residue is free-stone and lime-stone.

At Chilmark near Hindon, there have been stones of immense size dug out of the quarries there, lying in beds sixty feet long and twelve feet thick, without a flaw.

In the Parish of *Bor*, about seven miles from Chippenham, upon the road to Bath, there are quarries of that beautiful stone called the Bath Stone, great quantities of which are dug up and sent to various parts of the country.

## FISHERIES.

This being an inland county it has no particular fishery; its Rivers, however, abound in various kinds of fresh-water fish.

## CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is comprehended in the Western Circuit and divided into twenty-nine hundreds; viz.

Alderbury.	Higworth Cricklade and
Amesbury.	Kingsbridge. [Staple
Bradford.	Kinwardstone.
Branch and Dole.	Malmesbury.
Calne.	Mere.
Cawdon and Catsworth.	Melksham.
Chalk.	Pottern and Cannings.
Chippenham.	Ramsbury.
Damerham North & South.	Selkley.
Downton.	Swanborough.
Dumworth.	Underditch.
Elstubb and Everley.	Warminster.
Frustfield.	Westbury.
Heitsbury.	Whorwelsdown.

The County is in the Province of Canterbury and Diocese of Salisbury. The Assizes for the county  
are

are held at Salisbury. The four Quarter Sessions at Devizes, Salisbury, Warminster, and Marlborough respectively.

### TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

*Journey from Bath to Hungerford, through Chippenham, Calne, and Marlborough.—Forty-three miles.*

At three miles and a half from Bath we enter the County of Wilts at New Bridge, and at five miles reach the very pleasing Village of Box, situated in a most beautiful country, and containing several handsome houses, built of the white free-stone got in the parish. Four miles from hence, about a mile on the right of our road, is CORSHAM HOUSE, the seat of Paul Cobb Methuen, Esq.

The Palace of Ethelred, one of the Saxon kings, and after the Conquest the retiring place of the Earls of Cornwall, stood near the site of the present mansion, which appears, from an inscription on the south front, to have been built in the year 1582. In the last century it was one of the seats of Sir Edward Hungerford. It has been enlarged and ornamented by the present proprietor, in a very superior stile of elegance and grandeur, chiefly under the direction of H. Repton, Esq. whose taste is so universally known. An apartment has been added, seventy feet long, 24 feet wide, and 24 feet high, for the reception of a collection of pictures, esteemed the finest of any in the West of England, consisting of no less than three hundred and fifty-six pieces, the greater number of which are the chef d'œuvres of the most celebrated artists. Respectable strangers have permission to view the house and pictures, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Park and Gardens afford a variety of picturesque and beautiful prospects, and the place altogether is one of the most agreeable in the county.

The village of CORSHAM or COSHAM has been considered as one of the most pleasant in the whole county.

county. The air here is so particularly clear and salubrious that the inhabitants in general live to a very advanced age. This, indeed, appears from the inscriptions on the grave-stones in the church-yard, many being from 80 to 90, and several upwards of 100. In making a remark of this to some of the inhabitants, they told us, that some years ago an eminent physician, who was going to Bath, having put up at the inn in the village, was accosted by some beggars of both sexes; and being curious to know how old they were, one of them answered that he was about a hundred, and that another standing near him was six score. The doctor expressed great surprize, on which the beggar added, that the preceding Christmas there was a morrice-dance at a neighbouring gentleman's house, when ten of those mendicants performed their parts with great agility, whose ages, when put together, amounted to upwards of one thousand years.

The town consists principally of one long street, and the houses are all built of stone. At the entrance from Laycock, another small village, to the south-east of Corsham, is a large building, founded and endowed as an alms-house, by Dame Margaret Hungerford, in 1668, for six poor women.

The Church is a fine gothic structure, with a handsome spire. The vicar possesses very extraordinary privileges, having episcopal jurisdiction within the parish. There is a small market here on Wednesday, and two annual fairs. Sir Richard Blackmore, the poet and physician, was a native of this place.

At LAYCOCK, the village above-mentioned, there was formerly a Nunnery, founded in the reign of Henry II. by Ela, Countess of Salisbury. It remained until the general dissolution of religious houses, when its annual revenues amounted to 205l. 12s. 3d. Some part of the ancient structure is still remaining, converted into a dwelling-house.

At

At four miles from Corsham and thirteen from Bath, we enter

### CHIPPENHAM,

A pleasant and thriving borough town, situated in a fertile vale, on the River Avon, over which it has a handsome bridge of sixteen arches. It is at present very populous, and the houses are in general well built. The great road passes through this town to Bath and Bristol; and, being nearer than by way of Devizes, is much frequented by the nobility and gentry travelling through Wiltshire. The hundred of Chippenham, according to the returns under the population act, contains 15,834 inhabitants. Of the ancient history of Chippenham little is to be found on record, further than that "in the days of Alfred it was one of the finest and strongest towns in the kingdom," the taking of which by the Danes, about the year 880, was a principal cause of the memorable retreat of that great and good King, who, for a time, found it necessary to take up his residence in the humble cot of a neat-herd. We are indeed told, that the ancient Saxon monarchs had a palace or castle here; and that Alired the Great bequeathed it by will to his younger daughter Alswitha, or Ethelwitha, who had married Baldwin, Earl of Flanders; that in the reign of Richard II. it belonged to the Hungerford family; that it afterwards reverted to the Crown, and was given by Richard III. to the first Duke of Norfolk; and that in the reign of Henry VIII. it was restored to the heirs of its former possessors. At what time it fell to decay does not appear; nor is the least vestige of the building now to be seen. Camden in his "Britannia," supposes the church here, which is a venerable gothic structure, to have been founded by some of the Hungerfords; though he does not appear to have sufficient authority for supporting this opinion, certain it is that the arms of that family remain to this day on the walls of a portion thereof,  
anciently

anciently called Hungerford's Chapel; and which we have reason to believe was erected by Walter Lord Hungerford; in the reign of Henry VI. he having at that time obtained a royal grant for founding a chantry within the parish church of this place, to pray for the souls of his sons, as also for those of Henry V. and Catharine his wife. &c. &c. From a similarity in the architecture, and the same arms being now visible in the tower, and other parts of the church, both within and without, we may naturally conclude that the whole building then underwent a general repair; that some considerable additions were made to what was then remaining; and, that the tower now standing was wholly erected at the time above mentioned. The most ancient monument here is a tomb to the memory of Andrew Baynton, Esq. bearing date Anno Domini 1370. —The inscription is as follows:

ARMIGER HOC TUMULO JACIT HIC GENEROSUS  
OPACO

ANDREAS BAYNTON QUI NOMINATUS ERAT  
QUEM GENUIT MILES BENE NOTIS UBIQUE  
EDWARDUS

HUJUS ERAT HERES NUNC REQUIESCIT HUMO.  
A DNI. 1370.

“In this dark tomb lies the worthy 'Squire named Andrew Baynton; also the well known-knight, his son and heir, lies buried here.”

The corporation, which consists of a bailiff and twelve burgesses, obtained their original charter in the first year of the reign of Queen Mary; before that period Chippenham was a borough by prescription. The right of election is vested in the corporation, viz. the bailiff and twelve burgesses, and about 120 freemen, occupiers of burgage houses, who together send two representatives to parliament. The bailiff is the returning officer.

Chippenham has been considerably benefited by charitable donations for the endowment of alms-houses



houses and relief of the aged poor. There is also a good Charity-School for the education of poor boys, in reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic. The bailiff and burgesses for the time being hold a considerable estate in trust for the benefit of the freemen, after defraying the expences of keeping in repair a-pitched causeway, upwards of three miles in extent, viz. from Chippenham Clift to Wick Hill. At the first-mentioned place is the following couplet inscribed on a large upright stone :

“Hither extendeth Maud Heath’s Gift,

For where I stand is Chippenham Clift.

Erected in 1698 and given in 1474.”

At Wick Hill is a stone with another couplet ;

“From this Wick Hill begins the praise

Of Maud Heath’s Gift to these highways.”

with the same addition commemorating the date of the gift.

Upon a stone pillar at Calloways near the further end of the causway from Chippenham is the following inscription, giving some particulars of the charity :

“To the Memory of the worthy Maud Heath, of Langley Burrell, spinster, who in the year of grace 1474, for the good of travellers, did in charity bestow in land and houses about eight pounds a year for ever, to be laid out on the highway, and causey leading from Wick Hill to Chippenham Clift.

This pillar was set up by the feoffees in 1698.

Injure me not”

Chippenham has a good weekly market on Thursday.

The principal trade carried on here is the manufacture of superfine woollen cloth, which is now in so flourishing a state that the inferior classes of people employed in its various departments, find a difficulty in procuring dwelling houses for themselves and their families.

At a village called STANLEY near Chippenham,  
was

was formerly a monastery of Cistercian Monks, founded and endowed by the Empress Matilda, about the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. at which time its revenues amounted to 170*l.* per annum; but no remains of the building are now to be seen.

About two miles and a half from Chippenham is DERRY HILL, over which the old road to Calne used to pass; this steep ascent was found extremely inconvenient and dangerous; a new road has therefore been cut between Studley and the foot of Derry Hill, which in a great measure remedies the defect. The workmen employed in making this road found several Roman coins and other antiquities.

About two miles from hence, on the left of our road, is Bow Wood, the seat of the Marquis of Lansdown, which is much admired for the natural beauty of its situation, and the taste that is displayed in the extensive park, gardens, pleasure-ground, &c. The park contains nine vallies, the whole surrounded with a belt of plantations. In the midst of the park, nearer the north-east side, is the mansion, a large and magnificent pile of building, situated on an eminence, rising from the lake, a most beautiful and extensive piece of water, divided into two branches, one retiring behind a swell of the lawn, the other lengthening itself to a considerable distance, through the surrounding woods.

The pleasure-grounds are very extensive, comprising an area of upwards of seventy acres; they are most beautifully laid out and distinguished from the generality of places of the same name, by the profusion of large indigenous and exotic trees with which they abound, and which thrive here in the most luxuriant manner. At the bottom of these grounds is a fine artificial cascade, where the surplus water of the lake falls thirty feet perpendicular over large fragments of rocks, brought to the spot, and piled one upon the other, by the ingenious person who designed the whole. Underneath the cascade



cade there are subterraneous grottos formed by the same rocks.

The present lake was formed by raising a head across a valley, through which a small stream of water pursued its winding course.

About a mile west from the house, in the park, is a handsome mausoleum, erected to the memory of the Earl of Shelburne. It contains a marble tomb, with the following inscription:

To the Memory of

John Petty, Earl of Shelburne;

Viscount Fitzmaurice, Baron of Dunkerton,  
in Ireland;

And one of the Lords of the Privy Council;

Baron Wycomb of Chipping Wycomb, in  
Great Britain.

He was the Son of

Thomas Fitzmaurice, Earl of Kerry,  
To whom the titles of Kerry and Lixnaw  
had lineally descended

Through four-and-twenty generations;

And of Ann, the only Daughter of  
Sir William Petty,

His Lady, Baroness of Shelburne.

A man whom eminent faculties of mind  
Never made ambitious;

Whom abundant affluence of fortune,  
Never made dissolute;

Whose extensive influence of power,  
Never made arrogant;

Who lived with no other endeavour than  
to advance the happiness of others  
by kindness and clarity;

And improve their sentiments by good example;

Who died with no wish to be remembered  
but as a man of worth,

And a Christian of sincerity.

He departed this life, the 10th of May, 1764,

Aged 55,

E

Leaving

## Leaving two Sons

William, now Earl of Shelburne,  
and Thomas Fitzmaurice.

Mr. Britton gives a very correct and pleasing detail of the beauties of this place, and sums up its general character in the following words: "The scenery at Bow Wood may be ranked under each of the three distinguishing classes into which the agreeable objects of nature have been divided: the sublime, the picturesque, and the beautiful.

"The latter may be seen in the lawn and the pleasure-grounds; the picturesque in the broad lake, and its artless, wild, and broken accompaniments; the sublime in the extensive prospects, the rich woods, and the massive rock, worn into furrows by the rush of the falling waters. Here the minutiae of landscape is never perceptible, it is absorbed in the striking grandeur of the surrounding scenery."

STUDLEY is a small village remarkable for the warmth of its situation, and the goodness of its soil, which enables the inhabitants to cultivate great quantities of vegetables, for the surrounding markets, and produce them earlier than others. The soil is a light sandy loam, particularly favourable to the cultivation of peas, of which great quantities are raised for the Bath markets.

About a mile and a half from hence is the small borough town of

## CALNE,

Situated nearly in the centre of the hundred of the same name, on the great western road from London to Bath. This is an ancient town, mentioned in Doomesday Book to have been exempted from the payment of taxes, "so that it is not known how many hides are therein." It probably arose out of the ruins of a Roman colony, on the other side of the River Calne, near Studley, where Roman coins are frequently found.

The

The West Saxon Kings sometimes resided at Calne; and there was formerly a castle here, though every trace of such a building has been long since obliterated. The name of *Castle-field*, given to the common-field adjoining the town, and of *Castle-street*, to the street leading thereto, are all the evidences of the circumstance. Camden mentions that upon the controversy between the monks and priests, about the celibacy of the clergy, a great council was called here, A. D. 977. In the midst of the dispute the floor of the council chamber where the several orders were assembled gave way, by the breaking of the beams, and bishops, lords, and nobles fell together. Many were hurt by the ruins, many killed; only Dunstan, who presided in the council, and was on the side of the monks, escaped unhurt; a miracle, as it was then thought, that established the rule of celibacy. Another author considers the falling of the chamber as a denunciation of divine vengeance against the nobility; who the next year betrayed and murdered their king.

There was an hospital of Black Canons at Calne, valued, at the dissolution, at 2l. 2s. per annum.

The Church is a large and handsome structure, dedicated to St. Mark; it has a handsome square tower, and the walls are ornamented with embrasures, and foliated pinnacles.

Calne is an ancient borough by prescription, sending two representatives to parliament, who are chosen by the burgesses. The first return was in the reign of Edward the first. The corporation consists of two guild stewards, who are chosen annually, and an unlimited number of burgesses; their number at present does not exceed sixteen. The guild stewards are the returning officers of the borough, which has for some years been completely under the influence of the Marquis of Lansdown.

The manor, prebend, and rectory of Calne are held by the Marquis of Lansdown, under leases for

several lives, from the Dean, Chapter, and Treasurer of Sarum. The living is a vicarage, of which the present incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Greenwood, who has resided in the parish upwards of forty years, universally respected for his pastoral charity, general philanthropy, and manly independent principles.

The population of Calne has been, of late years, considerably increased; and at present contains upwards of three thousand inhabitants, most of whom are employed in the manufacture of broad cloth, kerseymeres, serges, and various other articles of the cloathing business. Great quantities of broad white woollen cloth, of a particular description, are made for the East India Company. The weekly market is on Tuesday.

The inhabitants are well supplied with water, which runs in a copious stream through the centre of the town, giving motion to several fulling and grist mills.

At the bottom of the principal street this stream becomes a navigable canal, being held up by locks, and flows onward until it joins a branch of the Avon, near Chippenham.

By means of this canal coals are brought into the town, at a much cheaper rate than they could otherwise be obtained.

The stream of water above mentioned is supplied by two others, one rising in a very romantic spot, near the village of Calston, about three miles west of Calne; the other issues from Cherril, and both unite at the entrance into the town.

John Bentley, Esq. of Richmond, Surrey, by his will, dated Sept. 29th. 1680, gave certain lands, called Fricketts, adjoining Lincoln's Inn, then worth about 500*l.* for the erection and maintenance of a free-school, for ever, in Calne. In 1737 the surviving trustees, established the following regulations:

“ That

“ That the master shall teach thirty boys of the parish of Calne, to read, write, and cypher.

“ That he shall not receive any money, or gratuity, from the parents of the poor children, nor take more boys than the stated number.”

And certain exhibitions were established by the liberal donations of Sir Francis Bridgeman, knight, at Queen’s College, Oxford; for the benefit of boys born in the county of Wilts, and educated in the free-school at Calne.—“ The master to keep a regular grammar-school, and teach seven boys the Latin and Greek tongue, and otherwise qualify them for the University of Oxford.”

About two miles east of Calne, is COMPTON HOUSE, the seat of the late John Walter Heneage, Esq. pleasantly situated on the brow of a hill, commanding an extensive prospect, and surrounded by a park.

About three miles south-west of Calne is WHETHAM, an ancient and agreeable retired seat belonging to the family of William Money, Esq.

Near Cherril, about three miles from Calne, close to the London road, against a hill, called Old-borough Castle, is an elegant representation of a white horse, in a trotting attitude, which may be seen at the distance of twenty or thirty miles; it has been formed by paring off the turf on the side of a chalk-hill, and is executed in very exact proportions. This interesting object was improved into its present state of perfection, by the ingenuity and at the expence of Christopher Alsop, Esq. formerly an eminent surgeon at Calne, not more remarkable for his professional skill, than for his great mechanical genius and integrity of character.

Four miles south from Calne is EDINGTON, or HEDDINGTON, which appears to have been a Roman station, by the foundation of houses dug up for a mile together, and many coins, silver and copper, found there.

At eight miles from Calne we enter WEST KEN-

**KENNET**, a small village where there is a kind of walk, about a mile long, which was once enclosed with large stones; on one side the inclosure is broke down in many places, and the stones taken away; but the other side is almost entire. On the brow of a hill, near this walk, is a round trench, enclosing two circles of stones, one within another; the stones are about five feet in height, the diameter of the outer circle 120 feet, and of the inner 45 feet. At the distance of about 240 feet from this trench have been found great quantities of human bones, supposed to be those of the Saxons and Danes who were slain in the battle of Kennet, in 1006.

At a village called **BADMINSTER**, in this neighbourhood, are nine caves in a row, but of different dimensions; they are formed by two long stones placed on the sides of each end, and the tops covered with broad flat stones. Spurs, pieces of armour, and other ancient remains, have been found in these caves, from whence it may be supposed they were the sepulchres of some eminent warriors; but whether British, Romans, Saxons, or Danes, cannot be ascertained.

About a mile and a half from West Kennet, on the left of our road, is the village of **ABURY**, or **ANBURY**, where there are several large stones like those at Stonehenge; supposed by some to be the remains of an ancient temple of the Druids; but more probably the burial place of a British chief.

### MARLBOROUGH

Is about four miles from West Kennet, situated in the hundred of Selkly, on the northern bank of the River Kennet. It is supposed to derive its name from its situation at the foot of a hill of marl, or chalk, and to have been built on the site of a Roman town, called *Cunetio*.

The Saxons built a castle here, on the same spot where the Romans kept their garrison, some remains of which are still to be seen. When Richard  
the



the first was taken prisoner, on his return from the Holy Land, his brother John, imagining he would not be released from captivity, seized this castle with many others; but he was obliged to deliver them up when the king was set at liberty.

In the latter end of the reign of Henry III. in the year 1267, a great council of the nation met at this place, and passed a body of laws, which still bear the name of the Marlborough Statutes; they were framed on purpose to prevent too many barons assembling in one place; though it was pretended that they were only to prevent tumults.

Marlborough sends two representatives to parliament, and is an ancient borough by prescription; but has received several charters of incorporation, by the last of which the government of the town is vested in a mayor, two justices, twelve aldermen, twenty-four burgesses, a town-clerk, and other inferior officers. The town consists chiefly of one long and broad street, with good buildings, and on one side the fronts of the houses are supported by piazzas. There are two good parish churches, and several meeting-houses for Protestant Dissenters.

The door-way to the belfry of the old church of St. Mary is of Saxon workmanship, and presents a fine specimen of the cheveron, or zig-zag ornaments. The tower is built of free-stone.

St. Peter's Church has a lofty-square tower, surmounted with battlements, and pinnacles, and has its roof supported by light pillars.

There is a good Charity-School in this town, founded and endowed in 1712, for forty-four poor children, who are cloathed and educated.

On the site of the ancient castle, a handsome house was built by the Marquis of Hertford, which has been sometime converted into a commodious inn, the most considerable, for size and accomodations of any in the West of England. It still retains the name of "The Castle." There are some re-

mains



mains of the ancient fortification yet visible, on the outside of the garden wall, and many coins have been found in the grounds about the house. The great mount in the garden was originally raised as the foundation of a great keep of the castle; on the sides and to the top of it there are shrubs planted, and a walk, from whence there is an extensive and delightful prospect.

According to the returns under the population act, Marlborough contains 441 houses, and 2,367 inhabitants.

There is very little trade or manufacture carried on at this place: its thoroughfare situation being its chief support.

In different parts of the Downs in the neighbourhood of Marlborough, are many barrows, or burial places, which are supposed to be Danish, or with more probability British. On the same downs are likewise several large heaps of stones, called the *Grey Wethers*, from the circumstance of their appearing, at a distance, very much like sheep lying down to rest. They are all very large, and shaped much like those at Stonehenge, from which it is probable they are fragments of an ancient temple belonging to the Druids.

A little to the east of Marlborough is a village called RAMSBURY, once famous for being the seat of a Bishop, under the West Saxon Kings, who continued till the latter end of the reign of Edward the Confessor, when it was annexed to Sherborne, and now makes part of the diocese of Salisbury. The village has been remarkable for its beer, great quantities of which were sent to London. Here is a seat of Sir F. B. Jones, Bart. near it is LITTLECOT, the seat of the Pophams. Many Roman antiquities have been found in this neighbourhood.

At two miles from Marlborough, we enter SAVERNAKE FOREST, the property of the Earl of Aylesbury, and the only one in this country belonging to a subject.

a subject. It is about twelve miles in circumference, and plentifully stocked with wood and deer; of the latter there are generally two thousand kept at one time in the forest, and the adjoining Park of TOTTENHAM, the seat of the Earl of Aylesbury. The forest is very agreeably intersected by many walks and vistas cut through the several copses and woods; eight of these vistas meet like so many rays of a star, in the centre of the forest, through one of which is a view of Tottenham.

This is a stately edifice, erected on the same spot formerly occupied by an ancient palace, belonging to the Marquis of Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerset, so justly celebrated for his steady adherence to the royal cause during the whole course of the Civil War. This palace being destroyed by fire, the present structure was erected in its stead. It was built from the design, and under the direction, of the late Earl of Burlington. It has four towers, and four fronts, each of them finely ornamented, and adorned in a different manner from each other. There are also four wings, in which are the rooms of state, and a noble library, filled with a choice and judicious collection of books in most languages.

The beauty of the buildings are greatly augmented by the large canals and spacious well-planted walks, that surround it; among which that leading to the London road extends two miles in length.

In this neighbourhood are the remains of a large house, called WOLF HALL, formerly the seat of Sir John Seymour; but now converted into a farmhouse. Here, it is said, Henry VIII. celebrated his nuptials with the Lady Jane Seymour, and his wedding dinner was served up in a large barn, hung with curious tapestry, on the occasion. In confirmation of this they still shew several tenter hooks driven into the walls, having on them small pieces of tapestry. Between this place and Tottenham

ham there is a walk, shaded with very old trees, still known by the name of King Henry's Walk.

A little to the south-west of Savernake Forest, is a famous Saxon monument, called WANSDYKE, which runs across the county from east to west. The name *Wansdyke* is a corruption of Woden's dyke, or ditch; so called from Woden, one of the deities of the Pagan Saxons. The most probable opinion concerning this fortification is, that it was thrown up by the first King of the West Saxons, to check the continual incursions of the Britons, who continued for many years to attempt the recovery of their ancient liberty. It is a strong earthen rampart, with a broad ditch on the south, and may be traced from Bath in Somersetshire to Great Bedwin in this county.

Seven miles from Marlborough, at Froxfield, is a handsome and well-endowed Alnshouse, founded by Sarah, duchess dowager of Somerset, relict of John, the last duke of the elder branch of the noble family of Seymours, descended from the great Duke of Somerset, protector of the king and kingdom during the minority of King Edward the sixth. This lady bequeathed by her will above 2,000*l.* for the building and furniture of this alms-house, and devised several manors, messuages and farms, for the maintenance of thirty poor widows, not having twenty pounds per annum to subsist upon; one half of which are clergymen's widows and the other laymen's, giving preference to those of the last description, who live on the manors so devised by her. She left in her will particular directions for the form, dimensions, and site, of the structure; and for the manner of electing, ruling, and providing for the widows; which her executors, especially Sir William Gregory, who took upon him the execution of the trust, punctually observed. The building is neat and strong, in the form of a quadrangle, having one front, and a court before it facing  
the

the road. It contained thirty rooms on the ground floor, and as many chambers above, one of each sort being allowed to every widow, for her apartment, with a small portion of a garden in the north part of the building, enclosed with a brick-wall. In the midst of the quadrangle is built a handsome and convenient chapel, furnished with a communion table, pulpit, desk, pews, and books, for the use of the widows; wherein the chaplain, whose stipend is thirty pounds per annum, is to read prayers every day, and to preach on Sundays; and for his further encouragement is to be presented, on a vacancy, to the rectory of Keymish in this county, which the Duchess appropriated to that use. Besides the yearly pension in money, she also ordered a cloth gown, with a certain quantity of wood, every winter, to be given to each of the widows; and when the estates which she had given to the said almshouse (many of which were demised upon leases for lives) should fall in, and produce a clear yearly income of more than four hundred pounds, she appointed additional lodgings, to be built for the reception of twenty more widows, who were to be placed upon the same establishment, elected, and provided for in the same manner as the thirty former; and then all the rents and profits of the said estates (the salary for the chaplain and a steward being first deducted) shall be distributed in equal shares and proportions among the fifty widows. The additional lodgings have been erected, according to the intent of the foundress, about twenty years ago.

About five miles north of Froxfield is AUBURN, situated on a branch of the river Kennet, near the borders of Berkshire. On the 12th of September 1760, it suffered a most dreadful conflagration, having seventy-two houses and effects to the amount of 20,000*l.* destroyed by fire. A public subscription was opened for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers,

ferers, which extended through a considerable part of the kingdom and produced a very large sum. It was formerly a trading town of some note, and had a good market on Tuesdays ; but, owing to the fire and subsequent decay of its trade, the market has for some time been discontinued. The inhabitants have, however, till very lately carried on a considerable trade in the manufacture of fustains.

About three miles south from Froxfield is GREAT BEDWIN, a small ancient borough town (by prescription), once a city, and in the time of the Saxons the residence of the governors of the county, who built a castle here, of which the ruins of some parts, and the ditch still remains. It has sent representatives to parliament ever since the first summons ; they are chosen by the inhabitants in general. The town is governed by a portreeve, chosen annually at a court-leet of the manor, who has a right of appointing all the inferior officers.

The most remarkable thing in this town is its ancient Church, which is a spacious structure, in the form of a cross. It is built of flints, cemented together with mortar, which by length of time has become almost as compact as the stones themselves. There are many ancient monuments in this venerable fabric, among which is one of a Knight Templar, whose effigies are dressed in the costume of that order ; the name of this personage is said to have been Adam de Scot, from a manor of that name in the parish. The tomb has an inscription, so defaced as not to be legible. There are also several monuments to the memory of the ancestors of the Dukes of Somerset particularly one of Sir John Seymour, father of the Protector, and of Jane, third Queen of Henry VIII.

This town had formerly a weekly market on Tuesday, but this has long been discontinued.

The principal part of the town of Hungerford being in the county of Berkshire a little to the left of the



the road, we shall defer our account of it for the present. That part of Hungerford through which our road passes, and which is in Wiltshire, is only four miles from Froxfield and is properly called Charnam Street, the ancient name of the whole town having been *Ikenild Charnam Street*. This neighbourhood has been very much improved by the navigable communication made from the Avon at Bath to the Thames, by means of the Kennet and some new cut canals.

*Journey from Hungerford, to Cranborne; through  
Salisbury.*

We meet with nothing particularly attracting the traveller's notice, until we have passed twelve miles of our journey, and arrived at LUGGERSHALL, or LUDGERSHALL, about a mile and a half to the left of our road, and upon that from Devizes to Andover. This is a town of great antiquity, and anciently one of the places of residence of the West Saxon Kings. Jeffery Fitzpier, grand Justiciary of England, in the reign of king John, built a castle here, but not a single vestige of it is now to be seen.

In the reign of Edward IV. the manor of this town was settled by that Prince, in special tail upon his brother the Duke of Clarence, but since the statute of alienation of Henry VII. it has been in the hands of various proprietors.

The town is a borough by prescription, and has sent representatives to parliament ever since the original summons. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The municipal government is vested in a bailiff, who is annually elected at the court-leet of the manor. The town is so inconsiderable a place that it has not any market, and only one annual fair.

To the west of Luggershall is SOUTHBURY or CHIDBURY HILL, on which are the remains of a Saxon or Danish camp. It is a large intrenchment, of nearly an oval form, encompassed with



wide ditches, which appear to have been formerly very deep, but at present are almost filled up with earth. Near this camp are several barrows or sepulchral monuments, where some persons of note have been buried. It is probable that a battle was fought here, between the first inhabitants of the island and the Belgæ, when they attempted to settle in this county, and that some of the most distinguished among the slain were here interred.

Near Luggershall, at Estcourt, not far from a great causeway, supposed to have been a Roman vicinal way, was dug up in 1693 a large earthen vessel, with two lesser pots in it, one of them full of ashes or bones.

At EVERLEY, about three miles to the right of our road, the west Saxon King Ina had a residence.

Proceeding on our road, seven miles from Luggershall we digress about three miles to the right, in order to visit Amesbury and Stonehenge.

#### AMESBURY

Is a very ancient town, situated on the river Avon, in a fine open champaign country. It is said to derive its name from Ambrosius Aurelius, a British Prince, who rebuilt the monastery after it had been destroyed by the Saxons, and filled it with 300 monks, to pray for the souls of those noble Britons, who were slain by the perfidious Hengist the Saxon; who massacred here, in cold blood, 300 of the British nobility, whom he had invited to meet him without arms, to treat of a league of amity, and to keep a feast together. This treachery was revenged by the noble Aurelius, who, in the declension of the Roman Empire, assumed the government of Britain, and with the assistance of the valiant Arthur, repelled all foreign invaders; but was at length killed in a battle on Salisbury Plain, and buried under Stonehenge. The monastery was afterwards converted into a nunnery; and

and Eleanor, King Henry III's Queen, retired and died here; whose example induced the princess Mary, King Edward the I's daughter, with thirteen noblemen's daughters, to take the veil together, in this house.

It continued a place of great repute till the general dissolution of religious houses, when its annual revenues were valued at 558l.

The town at present consists of two streets, that intersect each other near the Church, which is a very curious and antique building. It is a great thorough fare to Warminster, Frome, Wells, &c. and has two good inns for the accomodation of travellers.

A Charity-School was erected and endowed here in 1715, for fifteen boys and as many girls. The town suffered greatly by fire in the year 1753. It is said to be remarkable for a small fish, taken in the river, of a very delicate flavour, called a loach; and near the town is dug the best clay in the kingdom for making tobacco-pipes. The weekly market is on Friday.

Near Ambresbury is the fine seat of his grace the Duke of Queensbury, first built from a design of Inigo Jones, and afterwards improved by that great architect the late Earl of Burlington. The present duke has made great improvements in the gardens and grounds, having inclosed and planted a large steep hill, at the foot of which the Avon beautifully winds, as also through the greatest part of the gardens.

### STONEHENGE.

The astonishing assemblage of stones which compose the monument of antiquity thus denominated, is situated on Salisbury Plain, in the lordship of Little Amesbury, nearly two miles from Amesbury, and seven miles north from Salisbury.

The various conjectures and hypotheses concerning the origin and use of this wonderful structure

ture have fallen, before the learned, laborious, and accurate investigation of this place by Dr. Stukely; from whose work upon that subject the following account has been extracted. He has proved, by a variety of arguments, that it was a British temple, in which the Druids officiated, and has conjectured, from a calculation of the variation of the magnetic compass, which he supposes was used in the disposition of this work, that it must have been erected about 420 years before Julius Caesar invaded Britain. He says that it was their metropolitan temple in this island, and was called by them, Ambers, or main Ambers, which signifies Anointed Stones, that is, consecrated, or sacred stones; that when the Druids were driven from hence by the Belgæ, who conquered this part of the country, they, well knowing its use, called it Choir Gaur, meaning the great church, which the monks latinized into Chorea Gigantum, the Giant's Dance. Its present name was given it by the Saxons, who were intirely ignorant of its having been a place set apart for religious purposes, as is evident from their calling it Stonehenge, which means the hanging-stones, or stone-gallows.

The measure used in constructing this temple was the Hebrew, Phœnician, or Egyptian cubit, to which Dr. Stukeley found every part of it strictly adjusted; it is equal to 20 inches four-fifths of our measure, which will be used instead of the cubit in this account of its dimensions, as they will by that means be more readily conceived.

The whole structure was composed of 140 stones, including those of the entrance, forming two circles and two ovals, respectively concentric; the whole is bounded by a circular ditch, originally 50 feet broad; the inside verge of which is 100 feet distant all around, from the outer extremity of the greater circle of stones; the circle is nearly 108 feet in diameter: so that the diameter of the area  
wherein

wherein Stonehenge is situated, is about 408 feet. The vallum is placed inwards, and forms a circular terrace, through which was the entrance to the north-east by an avenue of more than 1700 feet in a strait line, bounded by two ditches parallel to each other, about 70 feet asunder.

The outer circle, when entire, consisted of 60 stones, thirty uprights, and thirty imposts; seven teen of the uprights remain standing, and six are lying on the ground, either whole or in pieces, and one leaning at the back of the temple, to the south-west, upon a stone of the inner circle; these 24 uprights, and eight imposts, are all that remain of the outer circle. The upright stones are from 18 to 20 feet high, from six to seven broad, and about three feet in thickness, and being placed at the distance of three feet and an half from each other were joined at the top, by mortise and tenon, to the imposts, or stones laid across like architraves, uniting the whole outer range in one continued circular line at top. The outsides of the imposts were rounded a little to favour the circle, but within they were straight, and originally formed a polygon of 30 sides.

A little more than eight feet from the inside of the exterior circle, is another of 40 smaller stones, which never had any imposts. The stated proportion of these stones appear to have been about half the size every way of the uprights, though that measure has not been precisely attended to in the execution of them. There are only 19 of these 40 stones remaining, of which only 11 are left standing.

Within this second circle stands that part of the structure called the Cell, Adytum, or Sanctum Sanctorum: it is composed of five compages of stones, having one impost covering them both; these are all remaining, but only three of them are perfect; the other two have lost their imposts, and an upright of each of these trilithons has fallen in-

wards, one of which, that at the upper end of the Temple, or Adytum, is broken in two, and lies upon the altar, and the other upright of the same trilithon leans upon a stone of the inner oval, and is sustained in that state by its fallen impost. The stones of which this part of the temple is formed, are in magnitude much beyond those of the outer circle. Each trilithon stands alone, that is, without being linked together in a continued corona, by the being carried quite round, as in the uprights and imposts of the outer circle. The breadth of each stone at the bottom is seven feet and an half, and between each there is the distance of a cubic, which makes each compage at bottom near 17 feet in breadth. The upright stones diminish a little every way towards their tops, deriving stability from their pyramidal form, and having their imposts by that means projecting considerably over their upper extremities. These trilithons rise in height, from the lower end of each side next the entrance, to the upper end; that is, the two first, that on the right hand and that on the left, are exceeded in height by the two next in order, and that at the upper end, directly behind the altar, is higher than the two that are next to it: their particular dimensions are 13, 14, and 15 cubits, which is about equal to 22 feet six inches; 24 feet 4, and 26 feet. The imposts here are nearly of the same size, which is 10 cubits, or about 17 feet in length, which answers to the width of each trilithon at bottom. On the inside of the greater oval, at the distance of about three feet and an half, is another arrangement of 19 smaller stones, coinciding in form with the outer oval, each stone being of a pyramidal figure: these are two feet and a half in breadth, one foot and an half thick, and on a medium eight feet high, encreasing in height like the trilithons, as they approach the upper end of the enclosure or adytum. Of these there are only six  
stones



stones remaining upright, though the stumps and remnants of several others are apparent.

Near the upper extremity of this inside oval is the altar, which lies flat on the ground, or rather somewhat pressed into it, it measures about 16 feet in length, four in breadth, and 20 inches in thickness, or rather what Dr. Stukely calls a just cubit; though he says it was extremely difficult to come at its true length, on account of its being partly covered with the ruins of the trilithon, which had fallen upon it from the head of the adytum, and broken it into two or three pieces.

The smaller stones of the inside circle, and likewise those of the inside oval, are of a harder sort than those that compose the greater part of the work. The altar is of a coarse blue marble, like that sort found in Derbyshire, or what is generally laid upon tombs in church-yards. It is remarked that the inside of most of these stones are smoother than their outsides; it is supposed that they intentionally placed the best side towards the holiest part of the temple. The upright stones of this fabric are inserted in holes cut in solid chalk, having their interstices rammed with flints. It is to this manner in which they were fixed, that we, in great measure, owe the preservation of so many of them in their original situations to so late a period.

With respect to the nature of the stones, of which the remains of this antique building is formed, some have considered them to be a composition of what is now called artificial stone; but this conjecture is so wild and extravagant, that it only requires ocular demonstration to disprove it. Others (particularly Dr. Stukely) have imagined, with more reason, that the ancients were acquainted with the mechanical powers, and that these stones were brought from Anbury, near Marlborough.

It is beyond a doubt that the Druids were not ignorant of geometry; but as for the stones being brought



brought from Anbury, we must differ in opinion with that learned gentleman, because upon the most critical examination of the nature and texture of the Anbury quarries, and comparing the stones with those of this temple, there is a very material difference, the former being extremely hard, and those of the latter much resembling Purbeck marble; nay, while we were on the spot, a learned gentleman scraped some part of one, when it appeared to be of the same nature, and, as he observed, there was not the least doubt but the stones had been originally brought from that peninsula by machines constructed for that purpose, although the knowledge of that valuable art might have been lost long before the arrival of Julius Cæsar in this island.

Stones of as great a magnitude were raised for the building of Solomon's Temple on Mount Moriah, and if the people of the east were acquainted with geometry, there is no doubt but the inhabitants of the western parts were so likewise; especially as we may reasonably conclude they both derived their knowledge from the same original fountain.

Dr. Stukely imagines that the Tyrians, Phœnicians, or, as they are called in the Paralepomeam, Philistines, instructed the Druids how to raise those stones, and place them in their present positions; but had he considered that the Tyrians only came into this island for the purposes of commerce, and that their stay must have been no longer than what was necessary to purchase the goods they came for, he would have been satisfied in his own mind that they had no mind to convey the knowledge of the sciences.

The most probable conjecture as to the means used to raise these extraordinary stones unto their present situation is that of the learned Mr. Rowland; who, in his *Mona Antiqua*, thus accounts for the phenomenon:

nomenon: "The powers of the lever" says he, "and of the inclined plane being some of the first things understood by mankind in the use of building, it may be well conceived that our first ancestors made use of them; and that in order to erect those prodigious monuments we may imagine they chose where they found, or made where such were not fit to their hands, small aggeres or mounts of firm and solid earth for an inclined plane, flatted and levelled at top; up the sloping sides of which, with great wooden levers upon fixed fulciments, and with ballances at the end of them to receive into them proportional weights and counterpoises, and with hands enough to guide and manage the engines, they that way, by little and little, heaved and rolled up those stones they intended to erect on the top of the hillock, where laying them along, they dug holes in the earth at the end of every stone intended for column or supporter, the depth of which holes were equal to the length of the stones, and then which was easily done, let slip the stones into these holes straight on end; which stones so sunk and well closed about with earth, and the tops of them appeared level with the top of the mount on which the other flat stones lay, it was only placing those incumbent flat stones upon the tops of the supporters, duly bound and fastened, and taking away the earth from between them almost to the bottom of the supporters, there then appeared what we now called Stonehenge, Role-Rich, or Cromlech, and where there lay no incumbent stones or standing columns or pillars."

For some distance round this famous monument are great numbers of sepulchres, or as they are called barrows, being covered with earth, and raised in a conical form. They extend to a considerable distance from the temple; but they are so placed as to be all in view of it. Such as have been opened were found to contain either human skeletons, or  
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ashes of burnt bones, together with warlike instruments, and such other things as the deceased used when alive.

In one of them opened in 1723, by Dr. Stukeley, was an urn, containing ashes, some bones, and other matters, which had resisted the violence of the fire, and by the collar-bone, and one of the jaw-bones which were still entire, it was judged that the person buried must have been about fourteen years old; and there being several female trinkets, the doctor supposed it was a girl. There was also in the grave the head of a javelin, which induced the same learned gentleman to conclude that the female had been a heroine. The trinkets consisted of a great number of glass and amber beads, of different shapes, sizes, and colours, together with a sharp bodkin, round at one end and pointed at the other.

In others of these sepulchres the Doctor found human bones, together with those of horses, deer, dogs, and other animals, and in one was a brass sword, together with one of those instruments called a celt, supposed to have been used by the Druids in cutting off the misletoe from the oak.

Among other curiosities dug up in one of the barrows, was a curious piece of sculpture in alabaster, of an oval form, about two feet in length, and one in the broadest part of the diameter. In the middle is represented a woman, habited as a queen, with her globe, sceptre, crown, and mantle of state; in a compartment over her head are three figures, supposed to represent the three persons of the Holy Trinity; and round the sides are angels intermixed with some of the apostles. The exquisite workmanship of the woman, who seems intended for the Virgin Mary, the strong as well as tender expression in her features, and the elegance of the drapery, shew it to be the work of a very skilful artist. This curiosity was seen by the person who describes it,  
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in a public-house at a small village called Shrawton, about six miles to the north-west of Stonehenge. But if these figures have any relation to the mysteries of the Christian religion, it is evident this work is much more modern than many of the antiquities found in Salisbury Plain, and probably of a much later date than the barrow in which it was found.

From these sepulchres being within sight of the temple, we may conclude that, like Christians of the present age, the ancient Britons thought it was most proper to bury their dead adjoining to those places where they worshipped the Supreme Being. Indeed all worship indicates a state of futurity, and they might reasonably imagine that no place was so proper for depositing the relics of their departed friends, as the spot dedicated to the service of that being with whom they hoped to live for ever. The sentiment is altogether natural, no objection can be made to it, while the depositories of the dead are detached from populous towns or cities; but no man can excuse the present mode of crowding corrupt bodies into vaults under churches, adjoining to the most public streets, when the noxious effluvia may be attended with fatal consequences to the living.

We shall conclude our description of this remarkable piece of antiquity, with a short account of the people by whom it is supposed to have been erected.

The Druids were a body of men, who, though generally considered as priests, acted in a civil as well as ecclesiastical capacity. The reason of their becoming possessed of secular as well as clerical authority, was owing to a notion being prevalent among the people, that none ought to submit to punishment for any crime whatever, but by divine authority; which authority was delegated to, and lodged in the priesthood only. Hence the Druids had an uncontrouled power over the minds and

persons of the laity ; exempted from taxes, excused from military services, arbitrators in civil concerns, judges in criminal matters, and public oracles of the community, it must be imagined that their sentences were without appeal, indeed few dared dispute their infallibility. But if by chance an individual had so much temerity, he was punished by an excommunication so dreadful, as to be deemed more terrible than the most cruel death : from that moment he was considered as a person abandoned by God and man ; universally hated and condemned, no one would associate with him ; but he was suffered to drag through a miserable existence till penury or sorrow snatched him from a world in which he could neither obtain pity or relief.

The Druids were under no apprehension that their influence could ever decline : being solely intrusted with the education of youth, they from infancy secured the respect of the people, and implanted that awe in their juvenile breasts which increased with their years, and at length ripened into the most permanent and profound veneration.

The Druids were of three classes, viz. Druids properly so called, Bards, and Eubates, or Vates.

The first class presided over and regulated all public affairs, both in spirituals and temporals ; their decisions were final over life and effects, and a principal part of their business was to direct and adjust all public sacrifices, and religious ceremonies. They were under the direction of a principal elected by themselves, and styled Arch-Druid, whose authority extended so as to call to account, and depose the secular prince, whenever he thought proper.

The second class, or BARDS, were the national preceptors, having the care of educating the children of both sexes and all ranks. It was likewise their business to compose verses in commemoration of  
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their heroes and other eminent people, and to furnish songs upon all public occasions, which they sung to the sound of harps.

The third class, Eubates, were skilled in physic, natural philosophy, astronomy, magic, divination, augury, &c.

Hence it appears that the Druids possessed, not only all the power and learning, but the principal archives, and places of trust in the nation; for they were the only priests, magistrates, preceptors, poets, musicians, physicians, philosophers, orators, astronomers, magicians, &c. in the kingdom. It is not therefore surprising that the principal people should be ambitious to get their children and relations admitted into their classes; and that the vulgar should regard them with as much veneration as they did their deities, whose immediate agents they imagined they were.

If any disturbance ever happened among the Druids, it was upon the death of their primate; when such earnest endeavours were made to get appointed to that honourable and powerful office, that the freedom of election was frequently disturbed by appeals to the sword; upon all other occasions they acted with great justice, moderation, disinterestedness, and temperance, which at once secured and increased that respect the people naturally entertained for them.

Their adoration and religious ceremonies were performed in groves consecrated to their deities. These groves were composed of, surrounded by, and fenced in with lofty oak trees; as they held sacred that towering monarch of the British plains. Though the reason of such prepossession in favour of this tree, in particular, is now unknown, yet it is remarkable, that the ancient rustic natives of this island should adore that tree as a sacred production of the earth, which the more refined modern inhabitants



bitants ought to revere as their principal bulwark on the main.

In most of their ceremonies the Druids took occasion to use some of the members of this tree. Their altars were covered with its branches, their victims adorned with the smaller boughs, and all who were concerned in the sacrifices decorated themselves with garlands made of its leaves. The misletoe, which nature had taught to grow on and embrace the sturdy oak, came in for a share of their veneration; they deemed it the peculiar gift of Providence, and held its virtues universal in medicine. It was yearly sought for, particularly on the first day of the first new moon in the year, when a proper branch being selected a principal Druid mounted the tree to which it clung, cut it with a pruning-knife, and carefully wrapped it up in his garments, amidst the joyous acclamations of the enraptured multitude, who deemed it the happy omen of a prosperous year. The religious tenets which the Druids taught the people teemed with the grossest superstitions, and enjoined human sacrifices as oblations to their deities. The first part they had in common with the Celts and Gauls, and the latter they learned from Phœnicians. Their deities were, Jupiter, Apollo, Mars, Mercury, Andates, their goddess of victory, and others of a subordinate class to them. After the Roman invasion, they added Minerva, Diana, and Hercules. Their worship consisted in human and other sacrifices, expiatory oblations, invocations, and thanksgivings. They had, in common with other idolatrous people, both ancient and modern, the custom of making their idols hideously ugly, which evinces that idolatry in general was, and still is, formed more on fear than love; as the figures which image-worshippers are universally pleased to give their deities, seem rather calculated to excite horror, or ridicule, than  
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to inspire reverence or respect. Unacquainted with the awful and amiable attributes of the true Deity, ignorant and barbarous nations, in all ages, have formed their religious opinions more on apprehension than admiration, and being incapable of conceiving the nature of true benevolence, have sought a remedy for their fears in the partial deprecation of wrath.

All Druidical ceremonies, and literary precepts, were performed and delivered extempore, as they never suffered either their maxims or their sciences to be committed to writing. This restriction was founded on two motives, the one that the vulgar should not become acquainted with their mysterious learning by means of any manuscripts which might accidentally fall into their hands; and the other, that the extensive faculties of their pupils might be invigorated by continual exercise.

Though the idolatry of the Druids was abominable, and their human sacrifices execrable, yet their moral philosophy hath been the admiration of after ages, and many of their maxims which stand in record have met with eulogiums of the most celebrated and polished writers.

From Stonehenge we pursue our journey over Salisbury Plain, which extends in length from Winchester to Salisbury twenty-five miles; from thence to Dorchester, twenty-two miles, and thence to Weymouth, six miles; and in breadth about thirty-five miles. This is far from being the dreary waste in general imagined. It is on the contrary interspersed "with a multitude of villages; wherever there is a valley, intersected with a stream of water, there we are almost sure of finding a number of inhabitants. Neither is the *Vast Waste* (as it is erroneously called) destitute of wood. The numerous dips and bourns are generally overspread with fine trees, many of which are so thickly clustered on the banks of meandering rivulets, and assume such a

variety of graceful forms, that it is astonishing they should have escaped the observation of an essayist on picturesque beauty. (Alluding to Mr. Gilpin's description of Salisbury Plain). The plain does not extend in *any* direction to the length of fifty miles. The busy hand of man is every where apparent in the cultivation of many thousand acres; and like the industrious bee he has built him a hive in every dell. There are besides not less than half a million of sheep constantly grazing on these downs."—*Britton's Beauties of Wiltshire*.

### SALISBURY,

Or New Sarum, is situated in a valley, near the conflux of three rivers, the Avon, the Nadder, and the Willey, which divide themselves into small streams, that are conducted through and water the streets. This circumstance tends very much to promote the health of the inhabitants, by occasioning a more rapid circulation of air, and by washing away the filth which might otherwise accumulate upon so level a situation.

The streets of Salisbury are in general wide and regular, being at right angles with each other. The Market-Place is a very large open square, and the whole appearance of the town is particularly agreeable.

The ancient *Sorbiadunum*, or Old Sarum, is about a mile north of Salisbury. It is to this place the present city owes its origin. The name is supposed to be derived from a British compound word signifying a dry situation, and the Saxon who called this place *Searysbyrie*, seem to have a reference to the same circumstance, *Searan* in the Saxon language signifying to dry. Leland supposes *Sorbiadunum* to have been a British post, prior to the arrival of the Romans, with whom it afterwards became a principal station, or *Castra Stativa*. Besides the evidence of the itineraries, and the several roads of that people which here concentrate, the great number  
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of Roman coins found within the limits of its walls, sufficiently prove its occupation as a place of consequence by that people. According to the author of *Antiquitates Sarisburiensis*, some of the Roman Emperors actually resided at Old Sarum. Leland mentions this place as having been very ancient and exceeding strong. It covers the summit of a high steep hill, which originally rose equally on all sides to a point. The area was nearly 2000 feet in diameter, surrounded by a fosse or ditch of great depth, and two ramparts, some remains of which are still to be seen. On the inner rampart, which was much the highest, stood a wall nearly twelve feet thick, made of flint and chalk strongly cemented together, and cased with hewn stone, on the top of which was a parapet with battlements quite round. Of this wall there are some remains still to be seen, particularly on the north-west side. In the centre of the whole rose the summit of the hill, on which stood a citadel or castle, surrounded with a deep intrenchment, and very high rampart. In the area under it stood the city, which was divided into equal parts, north and south, by a meridian line. Near the middle of each division was a gate, which were the two grand entrances; these were directly opposite to each other, and each had a tower and a mole of great strength before it. Besides these there were two other towers in every quarter, at equal distances quite round the city; and opposite to them, in a straight line with the castle, were built the principal streets, intersected in the middle by one grand circular street. In the north-west angle stood the Cathedral and Episcopal Palace; the former, according to Bishop Godwin, was consecrated in an evil hour; for the very next day the steeple was set on fire by lightning. The foundations of these buildings are still to be traced, but the site of the whole city has been ploughed over. Leland adds to his account, that "without each of the gates

of Old Sarum was a fair suburb, and in the east suburb a parish church of St. John, and thereon a chapel, yet standing. 'There had been houses in time of mind inhabited in the east suburb; but there is not one within or without the city. There was a parish church of the Holy Rood, in Old Saresbyrie, and another over the gate, whereof some tokens remain.'

Mr. Wyndham, in 1772, found, close to the London road, east of his house, and St. Edmund's Church, and at a small distance from the site of Old Sarum, the upper part of a casque about six inches diameter; the rim of which had two or three flat buttons of brass, which served as rivets for several chains or straps of the same metal, over the temples pretty entire, and a scull in it; another like casque, an inch less; a sword blade, two inches broad, three feet long, with the cross bars of the handle; two long spears heads and many human bones.

About the time the West Saxon kingdom was established, King Kenric, or Cynric, resided here, and about the middle of the tenth century, in the reign of Edgar, a great council, or witenagemote, was summoned by that prince, when several laws were enacted for the better government of church and state. Soon afterwards (in the year 1003) it was plundered and burnt by Sweine, the Danish king, in revenge for the massacre committed by the English on his countrymen the preceding year. It was however rebuilt, and became so flourishing that the bishop's see was removed thither from Sherborne, and the second of its bishops built a Cathedral. William the Conqueror summoned all his states of the kingdom hither to swear allegiance to him, and several of his successors often resided here.

In the year 1116 Henry I. ordered all the bishops, abbots, and barons, to meet here, from which circumstance it appears that the people of England were



were represented by delegates before the reign of Edward I. though not in the regular manner as at present.

The first prelude to the downfall of Old Sarum was a quarrel that happened between King Stephen and Bishop Roger the, latter of whom espoused the cause of the Empress Maud, which enraged the king to such a degree that he seized the castle which belonged to the bishops, and placed a governor and garrison in it.

This was looked upon as a violation of the rights of the church, and occasioned frequent differences between the military and the monks and citizens, the issue of which was, that the bishop and canons determined to remove to some place where they might be less disturbed, having in vain applied to the king for redress of their grievances.

The complaints of the citizens might, and indeed ought, to have been attended to; but those of the monks were of a very different nature. It was their practice to visit the nuns at Wilton, where they often remained till late; which being known to the soldiers, they concealed themselves near the gate of the abbey till their return, when they diverted themselves at the expence of the ecclesiastics. This difference between the soldiers and the monks is ludicrously noticed in a ballad written by Dr. Pope, chaplain to Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury in the reign of Charles II. the composition began with the following stanzas:

Oh! Salisbury people, give ear to my song  
And attention to my new ditty;  
For it is in praise of your River Avon,  
Of your Bishop, your Church, and your City.  
And your May'r and Aldermen, all on a row,  
Who govern that watered mead;  
First listen awhile upon your tip-tee,  
Then carry this home, and read.



Old Sarum was built, on a dry barren hill,  
A great many years ago,  
'Twas a Roman Town, of strength and renown:  
As its stately ruins show.

Therein was a castle, for men and arms,  
And a cloister for men of the gown,  
There were friars, and monks, and liars, and punks,  
Tho' not any whose names are come down.

The soldiers and churchmen did not long agree,  
For the surly men with the hilt on,  
Made sport at the gate with the monks that came late  
From seeing the nuns at Wilton."

From the time that Stephen put a garrison into  
the castle Old Sarum began to decay.

The removal was first projected by Bishop  
Herbert Pauper, in the reign of Richard II. but that  
King dying before it could be effected, and the tur-  
bulent reign of John ensuing, the plan could not be  
carried into execution until the reign of Henry III.  
when Bishop Richard Poore fixed upon the site of  
the present cathedral, and translated the episcopal  
see. The inhabitants of Old Sarum speedily fol-  
lowed, being intimidated by the insolence of the gar-  
rison, and at the same time suffering great inconve-  
nience through the want of water. By degrees Old  
Sarum was entirely deserted, and at present there  
is but one building left within the precincts of the  
ancient city. However, it is still called the borough  
of Old Sarum, and sends two members to Parlia-  
ment, who are chosen by the proprietors of certain  
lands adjacent.

The Cathedral, which is so justly famous for its  
beauty, will of course be the first object of the tra-  
veller's attention. The foundation of this noble  
structure was laid by Bishop Richard Poore, 4 cal.  
May 1220, and though large contributions were  
raised from most parts of the kingdom for build-  
ing it, yet they were not sufficient to defray the  
expence.

expence. The Bishop, therefore, issued an order to all the priests in his diocese to remind dying persons of a charitable contribution to this fabric. This answered the end so effectually, that the whole was finished in the space of thirty-nine years, being consecrated on the 30th November 1258, in the presence of King Henry III. and a great number of the principal nobility.

The cathedral is one of the most elegant and regular gothic structures in the kingdom. The outward structure has been thought by some rather too plain for this species of architecture; but the proportions are so excellent, and the whole so pleasing, that we rather think the simplicity alluded to, one of its most beautiful characteristics.

The body is supported by ten pointed arches on a side, resting on clusters of the lightest pillars. Each transept has three such arches, forming as many chapels. Between the choir and presbytery is a second transept on each side with two arches. The cross aisle is so beautiful as to exceed every other in the kingdom. From the centre of the roof, which is 116 feet high, rises a beautiful spire of free stone, which is 410 feet from the ground, and esteemed the highest in the kingdom; being nearly 70 feet higher than the top of St. Paul's, and just double the height of the Monument.

The dimensions of the cathedral are as follows; viz: in length from east to west 478 feet; of which the choir is 225, the body and side aisle are 76, and the whole breadth of the cross aisle 20 feet.

The tower has sixteen lights; four on each side, and its ornaments are judiciously adapted to the body of the structure.

The west front and buttresses all round have been filled with statues. On the north side of the church there is a strong built tower, in which are contained the bells of the cathedral, except one in the spire, which is rung when the bishop comes to the choir.

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There was formerly a spire upon this tower, which has been removed some years.

The spire of the cathedral is placed at the intersection of the nave and the principal transept. It rests on a handsome tower, which, exhibiting a more elaborate style of gothic workmanship, has been supposed to be considerably posterior in its date to the body of the church. Mr. Britton gives the following extract from Dugdale's *Baronetage*, to enable us to determine the age of its erection.

“There is a patent of the first year of King Henry VI. 1423, which recites that the stone tower standing in the middle of Salisbury Cathedral is become ruinous, and empowers the dean and chapter to appropriate 50l. annually for repairs. This in those days was a considerable sum; and I think an inference may be fairly drawn that the repair was made, and the tower rebuilt with the addition of a spire. The higher and greater part of the present tower is evidently engrafted on a work of an older and simpler construction. I suppose this new tower and spire to have been finished not later than the year 1429; for in that year Sir Walter Hungerford had licence from the King to appropriate the great tithes of Cricklade and the reversion of the manor of Cricklade, called Abingdon's Court to the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral, *to maintain the tall-spire steeple of that fabric in repair.*”

The walls of the spire are about two feet in thickness at the base; and gradually decreasing until at the top they are scarcely seven inches.

This beautiful ornament to the cathedral has at different times been damaged by lightning; but the effects have been much less injurious than might be feared from the remarkable circumstance of the declination of the structure nearly 23 inches from the perpendicular on the south-west side.

In 1668 the spire being struck by lightning, and perforated

perforated in several places, it was proposed by Dr. Burnet, the then bishop of Salisbury, to take it down; but upon a survey being taken by Sir Christopher Wren, that gentleman disapproved of the motion, and directed that it should be strengthened with bands of iron plates which have so effectually answered the design of the architect, that it is said to be much stronger now than when it was first erected.

Another dreadful storm, however, on the 25th of June, 1741, nearly devoted the whole building to destruction. About the hour of two at night, during the storm, a flash of lightning, accompanied by a peculiar crackling noise, was observed by several of the inhabitants to strike against the tower, and to be dissipated. The next morning the sexton perceived the reflection of a fire light on the upper part of the building, and it was soon found that the flash of lightning noticed the preceding evening had set the structure on fire. By the immediate exertions of some men who were then working in the cloisters, and the ready assistance of the neighbouring inhabitants, water was procured and brought to the spot, so that in about two hours the fire was completely extinguished.

It appeared that the lightning had struck into the solid part of a timber brace, that was opposite to a cavity in the stone work on the west side. The sparks that ascended set fire to the timber near the division termed the eight doors, while the falling ashes communicated to the floor that laid above the vaulting of the church.

Before we conclude our view of the outside of this magnificent structure, we have to notice the great improvements made by Bishop Barrington, during the time of his filling the see of Salisbury.

It was under this prelate's direction that the tombstones were removed from the church-yard, and the ditches which surrounded it filled up, converting

ing what was before disagreeably irregular and offensive to the sight, to an elegant lawn, covered with verdure and shaded by venerable elms, that spread their expanded branches over various parts of the area; so that the cathedral is now seen to the greatest advantage, detached from human habitations and incongruous buildings, nearly in the centre of the *Close*; the principal buildings in which appertain to some or other ecclesiastical establishment.

The Chapter-house is a large and handsome building, being an octagon, 150 feet in circumference; the roof supported by a single clustered pillar in the centre, apparently too weak to support such a prodigious weight: a circumstance that renders the construction of this building an object of great curiosity.

On the south side of the cathedral is a noble Cloister 150 feet square, with thirty large arches at each side, and a pavement thirty feet broad; over it is the Library, which was begun by the pious and learned Bishop Jewell; but since much enlarged by succeeding prelates.

The principal entrance is at the west end, “where the inside of the fabric displays its beauty in a most striking manner: the lightness and elegance of the clustered columns, the symmetry and proportion of the parts, and the grandeur of the whole, filling the spectator with amazement.

“In surveying the interior of this cathedral there is nothing to offend the purest eye, but the washing of the roof; which, though now reduced to one simple (stone) colour over the choir, is, towards the west end, most injudiciously daubed. It is greatly to be lamented, that, during the late improvements, the fund did not admit of rectifying a defect, which is become the more glaring, from being contrasted with what has undergone so advantageous an alteration. In advancing to the part of  
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the church just mentioned, we are induced to admire the beauty and chastity of its architecture more than at first; the lightness of the work, the regularity of its several proportions, and, above all, its harmony of style, excite a pleasing astonishment."

When the doors of the choir are first thrown open, and the curtain drawn aside, the effect is truly sublime, nor is it weakened as you approach. All the windows in the neighbourhood of the altar being richly stained, diffuse a sombrous and awful gloom, which finely harmonizes with the general style of the building, and the conception and tone of colouring in the principal window are very impressive. The subject is the Resurrection, painted on the glass, by Mr. Egington, from a design by Sir Joshua Reynolds. It is twenty-three feet high, and is comprised in three compartments, though there is only one figure, a full length of our Saviour, surrounded by rays of glory, and a profusion of bright clouds, with the three crosses on Calvary at a distance. Another of the windows at the east end, contains a very fine design by Mortimer, representing the elevation of the brazen serpent, given to the cathedral, by the present Earl of Radnor, (whose arms are emblazoned in a compartment above), in 1781. It was painted on the glass by Mr. Pearson, and is 21 feet in height, and 17 feet six inches in width; consisting of three compartments, containing together 21 figures, all of which are finely executed. It is very much to be regretted, that so fine a representation should be placed at such a distance that it is impossible to discover half its beauties.

In this part of the building are seen the lofty and slender single-shafted pillars so much talked about; and which, perhaps, by exciting a sort of confused idea of danger, heighten the awful impression of the scene.



The organ, elegantly constructed to correspond with the architecture of the cathedral, is placed over the entrance of the choir, and as seen from the altar produces a grand effect. This instrument, which is a remarkable fine one, was a present from his Majesty. It bears the following inscription :

Munificentia  
Georgii Tertii  
Principis  
Clementissimi Pientissimi Optimi  
Patris Patriæ  
Et  
Hujusce Diœceseos  
Incolæ Augustissimi

It was built by the late Mr. Samuel Green, of Isleworth.

There are several curious monuments in the cathedral, particularly those of the Seymours, Dukes of Somerset, and their families, together with Bishop Jewel, and many others of the prelates of Salisbury. That which formerly attracted the most notice was one to the memory of Lord Stourton ; who, in the reign of Philip and Mary, murdered one of his tenants, and the crime being attended with many aggravating circumstances of cruelty, he was found guilty, during the recess of parliament, and received sentence to be hanged ; which, as we are told, was executed with a silken halter, being all the favour he could obtain. His friends applied to the bishop of Salisbury for leave to bury him in this cathedral, which request the prelate refused to comply with, unless, as a mark of further infamy, they would suffer the halter in which he was hung to be placed over the monument. This condition was complied with ; but after being there for some time, the friends of the deceased obtained permission to have it removed.

There is likewise in the church the figure of one Bennet, a mad enthusiast, who (as they tell us) attempted

tempted to imitate our Saviour in fasting forty days and nights, and so strongly was he infatuated that he stood out against all the pressing desires of nature, till at last he perished, suffering a just punishment for his presumptuous folly.

The antiquary, perhaps, will be much interested in the view of a small piece of sculpture, near the great west door, representing a boy, habited in clerical robes, with a mitre on his head, a crosier in his hand, and a monster, supposed to be a dragon, at his feet.

This is supposed to be the monument of a boy-bishop, so called from the custom of celebrating St. Nicholas festival, by children habited as priests, which obtained in this and other cathedrals, as we have already had occasion to mention. One of these children, the choristers of the cathedral, was annually elected bishop, and he performed many of the ceremonies which appertain to the real pontifical function. If he happened to die during the period of his dignity, which lasted only a month from St. Nicholas day, his exequies were solemnized with a pomp corresponding with that observed at the interment of a real bishop.

The remains of the celebrated James Harris, Esq. father of the present Lord Malmsbury, and author of several learned works, are deposited in the great transept.

The Bishop's Palace, situated in the north-east corner of the Close, is an irregular and not very handsome building externally; it however contains several good rooms, and is agreeably surrounded by extensive gardens. It was principally built by Bishop Beauchamp; but owes every thing that is pleasing about it to the taste and liberality of Bishop Barrington.

The see of Salisbury has experienced many changes; when first established at Sherborne, in

Dorsetshire, in 705, by Ina, king of the West Saxons, it comprised the whole district now divided into the bishoprics of Salisbury, Bristol, Wells, and Exeter. Anciently the Bishops of Salisbury were precentors to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Edward IV. constituted them Chancellors of the order of the Garter; the latter distinction, with a few exceptions, they have enjoyed ever since the reign of that monarch.

The diocese at present contains all Wiltshire, except two parishes; all Berkshire, except one parish and a portion of another; and some part of Dorsetshire. The income arising from it is valued in the king's books, at 1,367l. 11s. 8d.; but computed to amount to as much as 3,500l. annually.

We have already mentioned that the ancient bishops of Salisbury possessed the castle and manor of Old Sarum. In the reign of Edward III. Robert Wyvil, bishop of this see, sued William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, by writ of right to recover the castle and manor of Old Sarum; but the Earl, according to the notions of chivalry in that age, pleaded that he would defend his title by single combat, to which the bishop agreed. Champions being procured by both parties, and the day of trial being fixed, the bishop came into the field, riding on horseback, cloathed in white to the mid-leg; over his robe was a surcoat, and behind him rode a knight with his spear, and a page carrying his shield. The Earl's champion came into the field much in the same manner; when, after a short stay, they both retired till the weapons they were to use in combat should be first examined. During this space letters were brought from the king, commanding both parties to desist, till such time as enquiry could be made whether he had not a right to the castle, prior to either of the disputants; but it does not appear that any enquiry was ever made, as we find

find the earl surrendered his whole right of the castle to the bishop for the consideration of 2,500 marks.

There now belongs to the cathedral a bishop, a dean, a precentor, a chancellor, three arch-deacons, a sub-dean, a sub-chanter, 45 prebendaries, six vicars or petty canons, six singing-men, eight choristers, an organist, and other officers.

Besides the cathedral there are three parish churches in Salisbury, the most ancient is that standing on the west side of the market-place, dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket, and originally built as a chapel of ease to the cathedral. It is a large and respectable building, 130 feet within the walls, and 70 feet broad, consisting of a spacious body, two aisles, three chancels, and a vestry room, with a quadrangular tower. On the south side of this church, are two figures standing in niches : one said to represent the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, the arms of the cathedral ; and the other St. Thomas a Becket. On the outer wall of the west end of this church is a curious wooden monument, rather in a mutilated state, representing in alto-relievo the story of Abraham offering up Isaac, Jacob's dream, his ladder, and sacrifice, and his bargain about the striped and ringed cattle, and in another compartment Jacob with two shepherds, one of them sitting and the other leaning upon a rock. This rude but multifarious piece of sculpture seems to have been the workmanship of a person who was determined it should become the monument to his memory after his decease ; for underneath the entablature upon another is the following inscription :

“ Here underneath lieth the body of Humphrey Beckham, who died the 2d day of February, Anno 1671, aged 88, his oen work.”

This inscription has given rise to a proverbial joke in Salisbury, when a man prides himself on any par-

ticular performance, it is said, by way of banter, to be "Humphry Beckham's *own work*."

According to the *Antiquitates Sarisburiensis*, this person was a singular character, of considerable natural genius for sculpture; but living in times when this art in England was the least cultivated, and being oppressed by low circumstances and obscurity, he found no opportunity for improving his capacity. It was only a short time before his decease that he finished the piece above described.

St. Edmund's Church is a handsome gothic structure, founded by Walter de la Wyle, bishop of Sarum, in the year 1268, situate in the north-east quarter of the city.

The seat of Henry Penruddocke Wyndham, Esq. is upon the site of a College of Secular Canons formerly annexed to St. Edmund's Church.

In this church there was a curious painted window, which was the occasion of a suit carried on in the Star-Chamber against Henry Sherfield, Esq. the recorder of the city, for damage done by him to the painted glass.

This window is thus described in the antiquities of St. Edmund's Church, 1719. "In this window were finely represented the six days work of the creation; in four different lights or partitions. In several parts of it were the figure of God the father, pourtrayed in blue and red vests, like a little old man, the head, feet, and hands, naked; in one place fixing a pair of compasses on the sun and moon. In other parts were some blunders committed in point of chronology: the Godhead was feigned creating the sun and moon the third day, whereas it should be the fourth; and the trees and herbs on the fourth, instead of the fifth; and the creation of man (from whose side the woman rises), on the fifth, instead of the last; the rest of the seventh day was represented by God the father in a deep sleep."



The extreme ignorance and superstition displayed in this piece excited the indignation and disgust of Mr. Sherfield, who very justly thought the Deity dishonoured by such a blasphemous assemblage of absurdities, and that the existence of the window served as food for the ignorance of the illiterate poor; he, therefore, in defiance of all personal consideration, destroyed the window, and as above stated was prosecuted in the Star-Chamber, and heavily fined.

Very near the site of St. Edmund's Church a bloody battle was fought between Kenric, King of the West Saxons, and the Britons, in 552, when the important fortress of Old Sarum was gained by the victorious Saxons. In 1771 a considerable quantity of human bones, a large iron sword, the heads of several pikes, the central pieces of shields, with their brass bandages fixed to them, and other remains, were discovered in a part of the College gardens. To commemorate this circumstance, Mr. Wyndham has erected an urn near the spot, with the following inscription :

*Hoc in campo, cynricus, occidentaliū Saxonum rex,  
Britannos, adeo gravi Hominum Strage prostravit  
ut vicinam urbem Sorbiodunum facile mox expugna-  
ret. Hujus cladis Indicio sunt, armorum rubigine  
nec non ossium Putredine confectorum, Insignos re-  
liquiæ, nuper Hic in apicem erectæ.*

*“ Ne Loci Saltem memoria peiret Hac  
rite dedicatur urna A. D. 1774.*

St. Martin's Church is situated upon the highest ground in Salisbury, and is nearly on the outside of the town; it has nothing to recommend it in particular to the notice of the traveller. The time when it was built cannot be exactly ascertained.

The great bridge over the Willey, on the west side of the Close, was built by virtue of a privilege obtained by Bishop Poor of Henry III. when New Sarum was incorporated; that for the benefit of  
the



the said city they might change the ways and bridge that led to it, and do therein what they thought proper, provided it was without injury to any person. Accordingly his immediate successor, Bishop Bingham, in 1245, built this bridge, which by bringing the great western road this way, instead of its passing through Wilton, decided the fate of that place. In this part of the city, which is called Harnham (having been a village of that name before the building of New Sarum) there was the College de Vaux, founded by Bishop Giles de Bridport, in 1260, for the residence of several scholars, who had retired hither on account of some disturbances at Oxford; here they pursued their University studies, and having a testimonial of proficiency from their Chancellor, frequently went and took their degrees at Oxford. This they continued to do in Leland's time, who says "part remain in the College at Saresbyri, and have two chaplains to serve the church there, dedicated to St. Nicholas; the residue study at Oxford."

The hospital of St. Nicholas, close to Harnham bridge, for a master, eight poor women, and four poor men, was founded at the instance of Bishop Poor by William Longspée, the sixth Earl of Salisbury, as an atonement for an insult offered by him to the bishop. It was endowed with lands and cattle by Ela his Countess, and escaped suppression at the Reformation through the art of the masters, who concealed their records from the commissioners. They obtained a new charter from James I. and the revenues now support six poor men and as many women, together with a chaplain and a master.

The Council House or Town Hall is a very handsome building, situated in the south-east corner of the market place, built of a very light coloured brick, with a portico, and other ornaments of stone. It was built at the sole expence of the Earl of Radnor, recorder of the city. The foundation

tion stone being laid 10th September 1788, and the building completed 23d September 1795. It was furnished by one of the members of Parliament for the town. The following inscription is placed in the centre of the principal :

Erected  
for the use of the Mayor and Commonalty  
of this City,  
In the exercise of their corporated functions,  
In the maintenance of municipal order and authority,  
And in the administration of  
public justice,  
by Jacob Earl of Radnor, the Recorder,  
1794.

The whole building consists of one floor only, on which are the two courts, a council room, or grand jury room, apartments for the officers of the corporation, a waiting room for witnesses, and a vestibule.

The council room is seventy-five feet in length, and twenty-four feet in width and height, occupying one entire wing.

In this room there is a fine whole length of Queen Anne, painted by the celebrated Dahl. It was purchased by the city from the October Club, who, during the reign of that princess, met at the Bell Tavern in Westminster. There are also two very fine pictures, by Hopner: one of the Earl of Radnor, the other of William Hussey, M. P. for the city.

The grand jury room contains several good portraits; among which we observed, James I. John Duke of Somerset, Bishop Seth Ward, Chief Justice Hyde, and Sir Thomas White, considerable benefactors to the city.

The Poultry Cross is entitled to some notice, as a curious gothic structure, of an hexagonal form, with a ball and sun-dial at the top; it has a small  
area

area around it, within which is the Poultry Market, from whence the name of the Poultry Cross.

Mr Wansey, in his paper upon the stone crosses of Salisbury, in the *Archæologia*, supposes that this must be the cross referred to in the following passage of the chronicle of the monastery of St. Albans: "Among the friends of Wickeliff was an Earl of Salisbury, who for contempt noted in him towards the sacrament, in carrying it home to his house, was enjoined by Ralph Engham, Bishop of Salisbury, to make in Salisbury a cross of stone, in which all the story of the matter should be written, and he every Friday during his life to come to the cross bare-footed and bare-headed, in his shirt, and there upon his knees to do penance for the fact."

There is another bridge over the Avon into the parish of Fisherton Anger, near St. Thomas Church. Fisherton was a village with a church, before New Sarum was built, and had a house of Black Friars. In this parish, near the bridge, is the County Goal, and the Infirmary, which was finished in 1767. This excellent institution was first suggested by Lord Feversham, who bequeathed 500*l.* to the first establishment of the kind that should be attempted in the county; upwards of forty thousand pounds have been since subscribed towards its support.

There are many other charitable foundations for the asylum of the aged and infirm, and the education of the infant poor, in this city, besides two grammar schools of considerable reputation.

The city of New Sarum was first incorporated by Henry III. The charter was confirmed, and its privileges extended, by one obtained from Queen Anne. The municipal government is vested in a mayor, recorder, deputy recorder, twenty-four aldermen, thirty common council-men, a town clerk, and three serjeants at mace. The mayor for the time being, his predecessor, ten of the aldermen, and

and the recorder, are justices of the peace. Their jurisdiction, however, does not extend into the Close. The magistrates of that district being the dean and canons of the cathedral.

Salisbury has sent representatives to Parliament ever since the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward I. the right of election being in the corporation.

The manor belongs to the Bishop, who holds his courts-leet and baron in the *nisi prius* court of the town-hall. According to the charter the mayor takes the oaths of office in this court. The bishop also has the appointment of the clerk of the peace and the city bailiff.

The principal manufactures of the town are cutlery and steel goods, fine flannels, woollen serges, kerseymeres, figured woollens for waistcoats, &c.

The business of the town has been much increased since the completion of the Salisbury Canal; which, about ten miles south-east from the city, joins the Andover Canal, and thus obtains a most advantageous intercourse with the port of Southampton. Salisbury contains 7,668 inhabitants.

Before we proceed on our journey towards Cranborne, we shall take some notice of CLARENDON PARK. About two miles east of Salisbury, upon the Southampton road, are the remains of the ancient royal seat, called CLARENDON. It stands in the midst of an extensive and beautiful park, admirably well adapted for breeding and keeping deer. According to Dr. Stukeley, the palace was built by King John, and in the reign of Henry II. about the year 1164, a synod was held here, occasioned by the insolence of Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, when the king and peers assembled, the bishops swearing to a declaration which Henry had drawn by way of recognition of the customs and prerogatives of the Kings of England, which Becket had flagrantly invaded. These articles were, from  
the

the place where they were sworn to, called the Constitutions of Clarendon. Henry III. called another council here, in the 10th year of his reign; but the barons and commons did not appear, either at some disgust they had taken at the king, on account of his minions Gaveston and the Spencers; or on account of a plague and famine, which, some authors say, raged at that time with great violence in this county. Besides the Palace there was another structure in the park, called the Queen's Manor or Lodge; there are considerable remains of both buildings.

CLARENDON HOUSE, the seat of General Bathurst, is pleasantly situated at the distance of a mile from the ruins of the palace.

Clarendon was the occasional residence of several of our kings, from John to Edward III. inclusive, and Roger de Clarendon, an illegitimate son of Edward the Black Prince, was born here. It also gave the title of earl to the famous Edward Hyde, who was born at Dinton, in this county, in the year 1608, and whose two grand-daughters sat upon the English throne. He received the first rudiments of learning from a private tutor in his father's house, and was afterwards entered a student in Magdalen Hall, Oxford.

After having spent some years at the University, he was admitted into the Middle Temple, London, and placed under the direction of his uncle Nicholas Hyde, at that time treasurer, and afterwards chief justice of the Court of King's Bench. Having acquired a perfect knowledge of the law, he was called up to the bar, and soon became eminent in his profession. When the writ was issued for the meeting of the Long Parliament, he was returned duly elected for Shaftesbury in Dorsetshire; but preferring his native county, he relinquished that seat, and was chosen member for Wotton Bassett.

During the time he served in parliament he laid  
aside



aside his gown, being wholly employed in public business ; and whilst he was chairman of one of the committees he had occasion to reprove Oliver Cromwell, for the rudeness of his behaviour, for which the usurper, when he came into power, would never forgive him.

At this time he began to be so distinguished for his great abilities, that the king invited him to a conference, and proposed to make him solicitor in the room of Oliver St. John ; but this he thought proper to decline. His moderation with respect to the violent temper of both parties, instead of procuring him favour, only served to encrease the number of his enemies. And although he refused the lucrative employment of secretary of state, when offered him by the king, yet the majority of members in the House of Commons considered him as a person disaffected to their cause, and resolved to send him to the Tower. He was, however, chosen chancellor of the exchequer, and knighted ; but when the Prince of Wales left England, and went to Jersey, Sir Edward Hyde accompanied him, and remained there about a year after the prince left that island, which time he spent wholly in study, and wrote some part of his history of the wars. From Jersey he went to meet the prince at the Hague ; and having settled his family at Antwerp, he went on an embassy to Spain, which however proved abortive.

During the usurpation he resided chiefly at Antwerp, either prosecuting his studies, or superintending the education of his children ; but when the government of his country was restored, he came over to England, and was created Earl of Clarendon and Lord High Chancellor, by Charles II. in which high office he conducted himself with the greatest integrity.

There is an anecdote mentioned of him by Bishop  
I Burnet,



Burnet, which, although passed over in silence by other historians, we think it necessary to preserve, as it evinces that the fear of God and a real love of justice will supersede all other considerations whatever.

Burnet, who was well acquainted with the earl, tells us that when he first began to make a figure at the bar, he went, during the long vacation, to visit his aged father still residing in this county, and that one morning, while they were walking in the garden before breakfast, the old gentleman expressed himself in the following manner: "You gentlemen of the law, when you have acquired great reputation for knowledge, too often take bad causes in hand, with no other view than that of acquiring money, although the misguided client may be totally ruined; and when pretended prerogative sets itself above the law, with a view of trampling on the constitution, you will prostitute your abilities to support despotism. But be assured that if ever you deceive your neighbour, or lead the widow and fatherless into vexatious law-suits, by your pernicious counsels, the just judgment of God will overtake you either in time or eternity. And on the other hand, if you ever, from motives of pride, ambition, or lucre, stand up in defence of such measures as may tend towards enslaving your country, you may like Samson lay hold of the pillars and pull down the fabric, but you will perish under the ruins." No sooner had the old gentleman uttered these words than he was seized with a fit of apoplexy, and died on the spot, before his son had time to call for assistance.

Dr. Burnet tells us that these words, coming from the mouth of an honoured and aged father, with the event that followed, made so deep an impression on the mind of the son, that, during the whole of his future life, he never paid any regard  
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to the pleadings of the most subtle counsel any further than as what they advanced was consistent with his own notions of equity.

But, notwithstanding his great probity, he fell under the displeasure of his sovereign, merely because he would not countenance the arbitrary measures of a corrupt court. The marriage of his daughter with James, Duke of York, was made a pretext for alienating the king from him.

In 1667 he was deprived of the seals, which were given to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and soon afterwards he was impeached in the House of Lords, of high-treason, and other crimes and misdemeanors. Upon which, by the king's desire, and persuasion of his friends, who nevertheless were perfectly satisfied of his innocence, he went abroad, and died at Rouen, in Normandy, in the year 1674. His remains were brought to England, and interred in Westminster-Abbey.

He had two sons: one who succeeded him in his estate and title; another who was created Earl of Rochester, and who in the reign of Queen Anne was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. His daughter, as we have before-mentioned, was married to James, Duke of York, afterwards King of England, by whom she had two daughters, namely, Mary and Anne, both of whom enjoyed the royal dignity.

Some writers are of opinion that this place should be called Clarendon, from a remarkable Roman camp, half a mile distant, which, it is said, was either made or repaired by Chlorus, father of Constantine the Great. It is of a circular form, situated on a dry chalky hill, and from its appearance must have been originally a very handsome fortification.

Adjoining to Clarendon Park, on the south, is a small village, called IVY CHURCH, once remarkable for having in it a monastery of canons regular of the order of St. Austin, founded by King Henry II.

It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and at the suppression of religious houses, its revenues amounted to 122l. 8s. 6d. per annum. In the *Bibliotheca* of Sir Thomas Elyot, the following extraordinary circumstance is recorded: "About thirty years past I myself beinge with my father, Syr Rychard Elyot, at a monastery of regular canons, called Ivy Church, two miles from the city of Salisbyrie, beheld the bones of a dead man, found deep in the ground, where they digged stone, which being joined together were in length 14 feet 10 inches; whereof one of the teeth my father, had which was of the quantity of a great walnutte. This have I written because some men will believe nothing that is out of the compass of their own knowledge; and yet some of them presume to have knowledge above any other, contemning all men but themselves and such as they favour." Sir Thomas Elyot died in the year 1514.

A little north from Clarendon is FARLEY, the native place of Sir Stephen Fox, knight, 1627, who having acquired a large fortune by his services to Charles II. founded an Hospital here for six old men and as many women; with a master to teach a free-school for 12 children, and officiate in the church, which was at the same time rebuilt, and made parochial. He died in the year 1716, and was buried in this church. His eldest son by his second wife was advanced to the title of Earl of Ilchester, by George II. Baron *Redlynch*, of *Redlynch* in this county, and his second son, by the same marriage, to that of Lord Holland, in 1763.

About three miles south-east of Salisbury, pleasantly situated, in a fertile valley, upon the banks of the river Avon, is LONGFORD CASTLE, the seat of the Earl of Radnor.

The original building was erected by Sir Thomas Gorges, and his lady the Marchioness Dowager of Northampton, in the year 1591. It was of a very singular

singular form, with round towers at each corner. This shape of the building has, however, undergone so many alterations and modern additions, that at present it can hardly be discovered, except with respect to the towers, which remain nearly the same as when first erected. The Park and grounds surrounding the house are very judiciously planted and beautiful, although too level in surface to afford many instances of the higher degree of the picturesque or grand scenery.

The house contains several fine apartments, of considerable dimensions and elegant proportions; and a collection of paintings by the old masters, of very great value. The pictures are contained in three rooms, and amongst them are the following;

*In the first room, called the Long Parlour.*

A view of Tivoli, by Gasper Poussin.—A large Landscape, with hunting figures and dogs, by D. Teniers.—Portrait of Himself, by Carlo Dolce.—Stable and Travellers, by Wouvermans.—Sea-piece, by Salvator Rosa.—The Seasons, by Bassan, comprised in four pictures.—Dutch Boors bowling at pins, by D. Teniers, very fine.—Group of Boys, in chiaro oscura, by Vandyck.—The Painter's Son, by Rubens.—Group of Girls, by Vandyck.—Cupids harvesting, by Rubens.—Landscape, by Ruysdael; very fine.—Landscape, by Bruegel.—Landscape, by Hobbima.

*The second apartment, or Outer Room to the Chapel.*

An Holy Family, by Sebastian Rueli.—A Landscape, by Wynants.—The Painter's three Wives, by Rubens.—Portrait, by Tintoret.—Tobit anointing Tobia's eyes, by Spagnoletto.—An Old Man's Head, wrinkled by age, by Spagnoletto.—Holy Family, by Julio Romano.—Portrait of Oliver. Cromwell.—Holy Family, by Parmigiano.—Nathan and David, by Rembrandt.—Two small pieces representing Strolling Players, by Callot, very rare.—The Annunciation, and the Wise Men's Offerings, two fine paint-

ings, by Albert Durer.—An Holy Family, by Carlo Marratti.—Samuel anointing David, by Vandyck.—Small Sea Piece, by Vandervelde. Holy family, (small about 14 inches by 10) by Carlo Marratti.

*In the third room, or Picture Gallery, are among others the following:*

Two remarkable fine pictures, by Claude Loraine, the one a rising the other a setting sun; emblematical of the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.

Mr. Gilpin, speaking of these two pictures, remarks “that nothing can exceed the colouring of both these pictures; the hazy light of a rising sun, and the glowing radiance of a setting sun, are exactly copied from nature, and therefore nicely distinguished.”

“With regard to *arial landscape* Claude excelled all masters. We are at a loss whether to admire more the simplicity or the *effect* of the distances. But when we have bestowed this commendation on him we have summed up his merit.—*It all lay in colouring.* We rarely find an instance of good composition in any of his pictures, and still more rarely an exhibition of any grand scene or appearance of nature. Claude and Salvator received, or might have received, their ideas from the same architypes: they were both Italian painters; but Claude studied in the Campagna of Rome, Salvator among the mountains of Calabria. The following lines are taken from “the Landscape” a poem, by R. P. Knight Esq.

—“Claude extends his prospects wide  
O’er Rome’s Campagnia to the Tyrrhene tide;  
When towers and temples, mould’ring to decay,  
In pearly air appear to die away;  
And the soft distance melting from the eye,  
Dissolves its forms into the azure sky.”

View of the Escorial by Rubens.—St. Sebastian suffering martyrdom, by command of the Emperor Dioclesian, designed by Michael Angelo, painted by Sebastian del Piombo.—A Madona reading, attended

by



by Joseph and the angels, by Carlo Maratti.—The idolatrous adoration of the Golden Calf, and the Passage of the Red Sea; two fine pictures by N. Poussin.—Venus disarming Cupid, by Corregio.—Portrait of Erasmus, by Holbein. a very fine picture, Head of a Magdalen, by Guido.

Among other curious articles to be seen at Longford Castle, is a *Steel Chair*, executed by Thomas Mikins, in the year 1575, at the city of Augsburg. The compartments, more than 130 in number, contain an almost infinite number of small figures in miniature wonderfully executed in open work. They are intended to represent the complete history of the Roman Empire, from the landing of Enneas to the time of the then Emperor Rodolphus. It was brought into this county by Gustavus Brander, Esq. who sold it to the present Lord Radnor.

On a hill above Longford Castle there were formerly the remains of a Roman Camp.

The road from Salisbury towards Cranborne passes through the hundred of Cawden and Cadsworth, over an open and agreeable country; but during the whole distance of nine miles before we reach the boundaries of the county, we meet with nothing requiring particular notice.

The hundred of Cawden and Cadsworth comprise a great portion of downs, and some forest land; and, according to the returns under the population act, contains not more than 710 houses and 3,592 inhabitants, of which 1,329 are chiefly employed in agriculture.

On the east side of this hundred is that of Downton, which takes its name from Dunston or Downton, a small market town and borough by prescription, pleasantly situated in a valley, watered by the river Avon, which not only fertilizes the soil, but gives motion to several mills in the neighbourhood. There is a good Free-School at this place, founded by Gyles Eyre, Esq. where twelve  
boys



boys are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The Church is a handsome structure, with a tower, which has been repaired and improved at the expence of the Earl of Radnor. The poor of Downton are chiefly employed in making lace. The municipal government is vested in a mayor, chosen at the court-leet of the lord of the manor. Members have been returned to parliament from hence ever since the first summons in the reign of Edward I. the right of election is in all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. Downton has two annual fairs, and a good weekly market on Friday.

According to the returns under the population act, the hundred of Downton contains 1,006 houses, and 5,063 inhabitants.

On a high hill south of Hummington, or Odstock, in this neighbourhood, is a very great single camp, called *Clerbury*, with a beacon in it.

Before we proceed upon our next journey we shall insert a few particulars of the life of the celebrated Mr. Addison, which should have accompanied our description of Amesbury, his native place.

JOSEPH ADDISON, one of the most distinguished geniuses, as well as elegant and correct writers, that ever appeared in this or any other nation, was the eldest son of the reverend Lancelot Addison, rector of Ambresbury in this county, where he was born on the 1st of May, 1672. He was instructed in grammar-learning at the Charter House in London, where he contracted his first acquaintance with the celebrated Sir Richard Steele. Having made great progress in the Latin and Greek, he was removed to Queen's College Oxford, his parents designing him for the church, of which it appears he had some thoughts. He had not been long at Oxford, before he began to be taken notice of by several of the learned in that university, on  
account

account of his extensive knowledge of Greek and Roman antiquities, particularly the poets; and a copy of verses written by him, falling accidentally into the hands of Doctor Lancaster, dean of Magdalen College, he was so much pleased with them, that he got him elected into that society, taking him under his own immediate direction.

Having taken his degrees of bachelor, and master of arts, he gave up all thoughts of entering into holy orders, and in 1695 wrote a poem in praise of King William, addressed to Sir John, afterwards Lord Somers, and keeper of the great seal. This nobleman wrote to Mr. Addison, desiring the honour of his acquaintance, and soon after procured him a pension of 300*l.* per annum to support him during his travels.

Being thus in easy circumstances, he left England, to visit every thing curious in Italy; of which he has given one of the most ingenious accounts ever yet published. His poem on the state of Italy, addressed to Lord Hallifax, is equally a master-piece, and has been translated into the Italian language, by Signor Salvini, greek professor at Florence.

In 1701 he returned to England, and on the death of King William, in 1702, his pension was taken from him. He continued, however, to be esteemed by such of the nobility as were lovers of literature, and upon the recommendation of Lord Hallifax, the Lord Treasurer Godolphin employed him to write a poem on the glorious battle of Blenheim, which is one of the noblest performances on the subject that was ever written either by the ancients or moderns.

In 1706 he was appointed commissioner of appeals, and soon after secretary to Sir Charles Hedges, at that time one of the principal secretaries of state. When the Earl of Wharton went over as lord lieutenant of Ireland, in 1709, Mr. Addison was appointed principal secretary to his Excellency, and

and during his abode in Dublin, wrote a considerable part of the *Tatler*, which was published for the benefit of his friend Mr. Steele.

On his return to England he wrote many papers in the *Spectator*, his signature being C. L. I. or O, from the muse *Clio*. In 1713 he wrote his celebrated tragedy of *Cato*, which run 35 nights successively, and was only stopped by the indisposition of one of the actors. In this performance the principles of liberty are represented in such amiable colours, and slavery held forth in so odious a light, that although it was acted at a time when this nation was apparently on the eve of losing its most valuable rights and privileges, yet so strong is the force of truth, that both parties seemed to contend which should be most forward in their applause.

On the death of Queen Anne he was appointed secretary to the Lord's Justices, secretary for the affairs of Ireland, and one of the lords commissioners of trade, and during the Rebellion in 1715 he wrote the *Freeholder*, which, at that time, did more real service to the cause of liberty, than all the books published on the subject. He had been several years intimately acquainted with the Countess of Warwick, whose son, the then earl, he had trained up in the principles of virtue and religion, and in 1716 he married that lady, by whom he had one daughter.

In 1717 he was appointed principal Secretary of State to his Majesty George I. but his declining state of health obliged him to resign that high employment soon after. He died of an asthma and dropsy, at Holland House, near Kensington, on the 17th of June 1719, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

To attempt a delineation of the character of Mr. Addison, would require a pen like his own; we shall, therefore, content ourselves with the two following anecdotes, and refer the reader to his works, which

which will be read with admiration as long as the English tongue shall remain a living language.

A noble countess, whose lord was intimately acquainted with Mr. Addison, unfortunately conceived a violent passion for him, although she knew it to be inconsistent with her solemn oath of fidelity to her husband. Mr. Addison frequently visited his lordship, and the lady made several advances to him; but as his morals were pure and untainted, he had not the least thought of her design, and imputed her freedom merely to the effect of generous friendship. But he was soon undeceived; for the lady, unable to suppress the violence of her passion any longer, and confiding in secrecy on his part, broke through all the rules of female decorum, and wrote him a letter, wherein she declared not only her passion, but even solicited him to defile her husband's bed. To a person possessed of an ordinary degree of virtuous fortitude, this request would have been readily complied with, as it must at all times be a strong temptation even to the most rigid virtue. But Mr. Addison resisted the fatal snare in such a manner, that not only does honour to the holy religion he professed, but ought to be held forth to public view as a copy to be imitated by young men in every station of life. As the fear of God deterred him from committing so base a crime, so his humane disposition forbade him to expose the woman whose greatest fault was the cherishing an irregular passion. Determined not to put himself any more in her way, he found means to convey her a letter to the following import: that she had inadvertently, and without proper regard to her marriage vow, cherished an unwarrantable passion, which, if not suppressed, must end in her ruin; that her lord was a man of the strictest virtue, and while he was treating her with tenderest affection, she was contriving a scheme to dishonour his bed; that as he had been undesignedly

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nedly the unhappy object of temptation, she might rest assured that her letter was consigned to the flames, and that its contents should remain a secret to all the world; but that a regard both for her temporal and eternal interest obliged him to decline his visits for the future.—“ You have charms (says he) madam, and I have passions.”

Such was Mr. Addison's notions concerning moral and religious duties; and the second anecdote will convince us that the power of genuine Christianity operated on the mind of this great man in conformity with his belief of its sacred principles.

The late pious Dr. Young, in a letter to the author of Sir Charles Grandison, has preserved the following account of Mr. Addison's last moments, which might have otherwise been utterly lost to posterity:

“ After a long, and manly, but vain struggle with his distemper, he dismissed his physicians, and with them all hopes of life: but with his hopes of life he dismissed not his concern for the living: he sent for a youth, nearly related and finely accomplished, but not above being the better for good impressions from a dying friend. He came, but life now glimmering in the socket, the dying friend was silent: after a decent and proper pause, the youth said, “ Dear sir, you sent for me; I believe, and I hope, you have some commands: I shall hold them most sacred.” May distant ages (says the doctor) not only hear, but feel the reply! Forcibly grasping the youth's hand, he softly said—“ See in what peace a Christian can die!” He spoke with difficulty, and soon after expired.

“ He taught us how to live; and oh! too high

A price for knowledge, taught us how to die!”

*Journey from Salisbury to Wincanton; through Hindon and Mere.*

Between Salisbury and Wilton are the villages of Bemerton, Quidhampton, and Folkstone, which constitute



constitute the rectory of Folkstone or Fuddlestone St. Peter cum Bemerton.

The village of QUIDHAMPTON, in a manufacturing point of view, may be considered as a sort of suburb or colony to Wilton. The woollen manufactories around furnish employment not only to men and women but to children also, so early as between five and six years of age. The daily toil of these little infants (whom if ever they are to attain the vigour and healthful activity of maturity, ought to be stretching their playful limbs in noisy gambols over the green) is added to the labours of their parents; whose burthens will of course be considered as relieved by their earnings. Yet Quidhampton seems to have little to boast in point of comfort or accommodation. The cottages are in general ill built, and of wretched appearance.

The view of Wilton Park, as we proceed upon the road, is a considerable embellishment to the scenery of this flat and otherwise uninteresting part of the county.

The present rector of Folkstone cum Bemerton is Mr. Archdeacon Coxe, a gentleman well known in the literary world for his general knowledge and extensive erudition, so amply displayed in the several valuable works with which he has favoured the public.

### WILTON

Is about three miles from Salisbury, and though now a very inconsiderable place was originally the capital of the county, and still is the county town, a corporation, and borough, and has a market. According to Leland it had once twelve or more parish churches.

The town is situated in a valley upon the conflux of the Rivers Nadder and Willey, the latter, as Camden observes, giving the name to the place. It was anciently called Elland dun, as appears from old records, which expressly mention that Weolk-



stane Earl of Ellandun (i. e. Wilton) built a little monastery here, A. D. 773. after his death, A. D. 800 his relict Alburga, sister to King Egbert, changed it to a nunnery. King Alfred, after his victory over the Danes, built a new nunnery here, on the site of the old palace, into which he removed the nuns from the other, thus doubling their number.

Wilton was anciently one of the royal boroughs of the Saxon Princes. At this place Egbert, King of the West Saxons, fought a successful battle, in the year of our Lord 821, against Beorwulf the Mercian; but with so much slaughter on both sides that the river ran with blood. Here likewise in 872, Alfred fought the Danes, and was at first victorious; but pressing too warmly after the enemy, they rallied, and remained masters of the field.

The Danes, however, having lost great numbers in this battle, and fearing the King would considerably recruit his army, petitioned for a truce, which Alfred readily granted, upon condition that they would depart the kingdom.

The nunnery was valued at above 600*l.* per annum at the dissolution.

In the year 1003 this place was pillaged and burnt, by the Danes under King Swayne or Suene, when he overran the western and southern counties, as we have before mentioned.

After the conquest King Stephen placed a garrison here, to check the incursions of the empress Maud's soldiers from Salisbury; but Robert Earl of Gloucester drove out the garrison, and burnt the town. It was, however, soon after rebuilt, and would probably have regained its former consequence, had not Wyvil, Bishop of Salisbury, procured a grant from Edward III. to turn the great western road through that city; the consequence of which was that Wilton gradually declined.

This town received its charter of incorporation  
from

from Henry VIII. by which it is under the government of a mayor, a recorder, five aldermen, three capital burgesses, eleven common-council, a town-clerk, and other proper officers.

Wilton has long been celebrated for its carpet manufactures, but the first patent for making carpets exclusively here was obtained about sixty years ago; this patent, however, was soon after evaded by some persons at Kidderminster in Worcestershire, who, in defiance of the patentees, established a manufactory there upon the same principles.

It is said that the first carpet ever made in England was manufactured at Wilton, by one Anthony Duflosy, who was brought out of France into this country by Lord Pembroke, the grandfather of the present Earl.

The carpet manufacture has since become very much improved, if not brought to its greatest perfection, by English artists.

Besides carpets, there is a considerable quantity of fancy woollen cloth manufactured at Wilton, and its immediate neighbourhood; but the principal attraction of strangers to this place is the magnificent seat of the Earl of Pembroke.

#### WILTON HOUSE

Was began to be erected by Sir William Herbert, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, on the site of the nunnery, which, with the lands belonging to it, had been granted to him upon its dissolution, by the munificence of King Henry VIII. This Sir William Herbert was advanced to the title of Earl of Pembroke in the reign of Edward VI. A. D. 1551. He dying in 1569, his son Henry finished the mansion, and died 1630. The plan of the buildings was designed by Fiolbein and Inigo Jones. The elegant porch leading into the great hall was executed under the inspection of the former. The whole

remains a superb monument of the skill of those celebrated artists.

The Park and grounds have of late years been much improved, and are very beautiful. In the garden are a number of cedars of Lebanon ; some are said to be the largest in England, being nearly fifteen feet in circumference, and proportionally high.

The river Nadder flows through the grounds, and spreads its waters into a considerable lake, and afterwards unites with the Willey.

The south or garden front of the house, opposite to which are the cedars just mentioned, was designed by Inigo Jones, and is justly esteemed one of his happiest performances. It is 194 feet long.

The fine statues, busts, paintings, &c. at this noble seat, which have been collected at different periods, comprising the whole collection of the Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarine, and the greatest part of the Earl of Arundels; are so judiciously placed, that it may with great propriety be called a museum. They are so numerous that it would require a whole volume minutely to describe them : we shall therefore confine ourselves to a brief notice of the principal objects and commence with the exterior curiosities which ornament this distinguished mansion.

In the court before the front stands a column of white Egyptian granite, on the top of which is a very fine statue of Venus, cast in lead from the model of one that was set up before the temple of Venus Genetrix, by Julius Cæsar. The shaft weighs between 60 and 70 cwt. and is of one piece. It is 13 feet and half high, and 22 inches in diameter.— This column was never erected since it fell in the ruins of Old Rome, till it was set up here, with a Corinthian capital, and base of white marble, which, with all its parts, makes it thirty two feet high. On the lower fillet of this column are five letters, which

which having the proper vowels supplied, make *ASTARTE*, the name by which Venus was worshipped among the ancient eastern nations.

In the front of the house is another piece of great antiquity, being a statue in black marble, brought from the ancient temple of Alexandria in Egypt, in which the great Cambyses lived, after his return from the conquest of Persia. It was brought by that conqueror from Persia, and is the representation of one of their kings, dressed in his royal robes, and crowned with an eastern diadem.

On the great gateway is a tower; and in the passage beneath it a statue of the poet Shakespear, done by Scheemaker, in the same attitude as that in Westminster Abbey, only the inscription is different, being the following lines from *Macbeth*:

“ Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player;  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
And then is heard no more.”

In the middle of the inner court is a pedestal, on which stands the figure of a horse as large as life. In this pedestal are four niches, each containing an antique statue. The first is Jupiter Ammon, from Thrace, not only with ram’s horns, but with a whole ram on his shoulder: it was taken from a temple said to have been built there by King Sesostris. On the right hand is the father of Julius Cæsar, when governor in Egypt. The next is Plautilla, the wife of Caracalla, dressed like Diana the huntress. And the fourth is the muse Clio.

In two painted niches in this court are the statues of Attis, the high priest of Cybell, and Autumnus with autumnal fruits; and in another niche on a pedestal is a statue of Venus, picking a thorn out of her foot; the turn of the body is inimitable, and the expression of pain in her countenance is extremely fine. On one side of the gateway is the bust of Pan, and on the other that of Olympia, the mother of Alexander the Great.

In the porch leading into the vestibule, built by Hans Holbein, are the busts of Hannibal, Pescennius, Niger, Albinus, and Miltiades; and within the vestibule are those of Pindar, Theophrastus, Sophocles, Philemon, Tryphena, Vibius Varus, Lucius Verus when emperor, Didius Julianus, Agrippina, Major, Aristophanes, and Caligula.

Almost all the busts are placed on termini, inlaid with variegated coloured marbles.

There are 175 busts in the collection, most of them of fine sculpture. These cannot but be extremely interesting to the historian and physiognomist, as there can be little doubt of their authenticity; and even the common observer will contemplate with an ardent curiosity, the features of those illustrious characters of whom he has read or heard so much. The dignified composure and intellectual power exhibited in the features of *Theophrastus*, correspond with the character and writings of that philosopher; and the calm benignity and engaging softness of *Didia Clara*, (daughter of Didius Julianus) induces one to believe it a genuine portrait, notwithstanding its more than mortal beauty. The sordid meanness and insensate cruelty that debase the features of *Lepidus*, the triumvir; the stupid indolence and barbarity of the *Emperor Claudius*; and the bloated, intemperate, licentious, effeminate, mischief-meditating countenance of *Nero*, with his pursed-up distorted mouth, and assassin arm wrapped up in a cloak, brand these portraits respectively with the indubitable marks of authenticity; many others are also the very beings a physiognomist would expect them.

There are many very fine relievos, of antique sculpture, among which the following are highly deserving of notice:

Curtius leaping into the Fiery Gulph.—Saturn with a scythe.—Boys eating grapes.—A Fauness and Child.—Hercules in the Garden of the Hesperides—  
The



The Story of Clelia.—A Relievo from the Temple of Bacchus.—Niobe and her Children.—A Tomb of White Marble, ornamented with Relievos.—The Front of Meleager's Tomb.

In the vestibule also are two columns of pavonazzo, or peacock marble, each nine feet seven inches in height; and in the middle of the vestibule is the statue of Apollo; he appears in a resting posture, with his quiver hanging on a laurel.

The geometrical staircase is well worthy of observation, being an admirable piece of workmanship, and the first of the kind ever executed in this country. It is said, that it was in a part of this house, the celebrated Sir Philip Sydney wrote the history of the Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia; and on the bottom pannels of the cube room are painted sundry scenes taken from that allegorical romance.

The apartments generally shewn at Wilton are the great hall, the old billiard room, the white marble room, the new dining room, the hunting room, the cube room, the great room, the colonnade room, the stone hall, and the bugle room.

Upon entering these noble apartments, such a variety strikes you upon every side, that you scarce know on which object to fix your attention.

At one end of the great room is the celebrated Family Picture, by Vandyck; seventeen feet long and eleven feet high, containing ten figures as large as life, which rather appear as so many real persons than the production of art.

Among the other pictures in this room are the following:

Portrait of King Charles I. half length.—Three Children of the above monarch.—Several of the Pembroke Family, all by Vandyck.—Ceres holding wheat—and the Virgin, Christ, St. John, and St. Catherine, both by Parmigiano.—The Virgin and our Saviour, with Joseph looking on, by Guercino.—A Nativity, said to be by Van Eyck, who invented painting in oil,



oil, a great curiosity.—Christ taken from the Cross; by Albert Durer, a very curious painting.—An Antique of the Virgin and Child; said to be by Saint Luke.—Mary Magdalen; by Titian, very fine.—Belshazzar's Feast; by Frank.

And a multitude of others by the best masters, and of inestimable value, of which in Mr. Britton's "Beauties of Wiltshire," there is a very accurate and copious catalogue raisonnée.

Besides the curiosities we have mentioned, there is a very valuable collection of original drawings, and a library, containing a complete collection of the first editions of the classics, and most of the early and rare productions of the press, as well as the more modern and scientific.

The loggio in the bowling-green (which has pillars beautifully rusticated, and is enriched with niches and statues); the grotto (the front of which is curiously carved without, as it is all marble within, and has black pillars of the Ionic order, with capitals of white marble, and four fine basso relievos from Florence); the stables, and other offices, are all beauties in their kind, which we regret the limits of our work will not permit us to describe.

The collections of head-pieces, coats of mail, and other armour, for both horse and men, are very curious. They shew those of King Henry VIII. Edward VI. and of an Earl of Pembroke, nicknamed *Black Jack*, which he wore when he besieged and took Bolougne, in France. There are 12 other complete suits of armour, of extraordinary workmanship, and above an hundred for common horsemen.

The gardens are on the south side of the house, and are laid out with great taste and elegance. Part of the river is brought in a canal through one part of them; and over it is erected the Palladian bridge, which is esteemed one of the most beautiful structures of that kind in England. After crossing this bridge

bridge, you ascend an hill, from whence there is a complete view of Salisbury Cathedral, and an extensive prospect over the adjacent country. Beyond this hill is the great park, where there is a hare warren.

Every person concerned in designing and finishing this noble seat have been men of fine taste, and solid judgment, not jumbling art and nature together, but making the one assistant to the other.

Upon a considerable eminence overlooking Wilton, and the fertile valley at the union of the Nadder and the Willey, is the noted place called KING-BARROW, supposed by Dr. Stukeley to be the tomb of Carvilius, one of the four kings of Kent, who attacked Cæsar's sea camp, in order to create a diversion in favour of Cassibelan. This prince is supposed to have kept his royal residence at Carvillium now Wilton.

At Dinton, a small village, through which our road passes, Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, was born, of whom we have already made mention.

At CHILMARK, there are some very extensive quarries of stone.

About a mile and a half before we reach Hindon, and eleven from Wilton, is FONT-HILL, the celebrated seat of Beckford, Esq.

The approach to the house, from Salisbury, is by a road passing under a noble stone arch; with lodges on either side, after a design of Inigo Jones, and continuing in a direct line, towards the principal front, which forms a grand facade, nearly 400 feet in length.

The house is built of fine white free-stone, obtained from quarries within half a mile of its scite.

A superb portico, of the Corinthian order, ascended by a magnificent flight of steps, adorns the body of the mansion, to which are attached two uniform square wings, connected with it by elliptical colonnades, supported in the front by Doric pillars, with a characteristic

a characteristic fringe above the architrave. The house occupies the site of one built after the designs of Inigo Jones, which the late Mr. Beckford took down, in order to build a more modern one on the spot. This, however, was by accident burnt down, and he was obliged to go once more to work, and the present Font-hill rose with tenfold splendour from the ruins. The basement story contains an arched Egyptian hall, 85 feet 10 inches, by 38 feet six inches, and of proportionable height. The ceiling of this room is painted in compartments, by Cassali, a modern artist.

On the left of the Egyptian hall, are two apartments, the first 25 feet by 19, the second 31 by 27. The ceilings are white, enriched with gold, and tablets painted in *chiaro oscuro*, from the designs of Mr. Wyatt. From these rooms we ascend into the organ hall, or cube room, 36 feet every way, paved with marble. The next apartment is the anti-room, covered with pictures.

It would occupy too large a portion of our work to insert a catalogue of all the paintings and curiosities contained in this magnificent and truly valuable collection; we must therefore content ourselves with giving a brief account of some of the most remarkable.

In the room we have just mentioned, among many others are:

Two Views in Wales, by Louthembourg.—A Storm, by the same artist.—A Holy Family, by Loir, thought to be equal to Poussin.—A Village Scene, by Ruisdael.—Tobit and the Angel, by Elsheimer.—Boors regaling, by Teniers.—Head of a Magdalen, by Guido.

In the great gallery, a magnificent room, 73 feet by 24, and 20 feet high, are among others:

Socrates taking poison, by Salvator Rosa.—A Holy Family, and the Adoration of the Magi, by Bonafacio Bembi.—Archimedes shrinking from the sword  
of

of his Assassins, by Spagnoletto.—The Mater Dolorosa, and the Vision of St. Anthony of Padua, by West.—A small Landscape, with cattle, by Bergham.—St. Jerome awakened from a trance by an angel sounding a trumpet, by Guercino.—Two upright Landscapes, by Gaspar Poussin.—The Adoration of the Shepherds, by Ludovico Caracci.—Two Children carressing, by Leonardo da Vinci.

The anti-room to the bed-chamber contains among others :

The Siege of Rhodes, by Wyck.—Some Views after Nature, by Louthembourg and Daniel ; and two large cabinets of ebony, and purple wood, surmounted by slabs of verd antique, and enriched with bronzes, highly wrought and gilt by Vulliarny ; they contain a collection of the rare old Japan antique cups of onyx ; an ivory tankard, carved by Fiamingo ; and the communion-plate of solid gold, most exquisitely chased, which belonged to Louis the sixteenth's private oratory at Versailles.

The saloon, 38 feet by six, hung with crimson damask, and spread with Persian carpets, which equal velvet though no silk is employed in the texture, contains

The two famous Claudes, purchased for Mr. Beckford of the prince of Altieri, at the sum of 7,000 guineas.

It was at great risque, and with the utmost difficulty, these celebrated pictures could be got out of the Papal territory. “ They are unquestionably exquisite, and display to a striking degree that delicacy of colouring, variety and sweetness of tints, warmth of sky, and appropriate illumination, which have placed this great artist far beyond every other painter in the line of landscape ; but are still considered by the *Cognoscenti* as inferior to that other pair of landscapes we have before mentioned in our description of the paintings at Longford Castle.

“ The picture on the left represents the landing of *Enæas* in Italy, the gallies and river in front, on one side

side mountains, on the other buildings and trees. The picture on the right displays a broad valley, with a river, bridge, distant mountains, and sea in front ; the right screen is formed by trees in front, and the left by a palace and ruined temple, of these the latter is unquestionably the finer. The other paintings in the apartment are some family portraits, particularly a full length of Alderman Beckford, by Romney."—*Warner's Excursions from Bath.*

In the morning drawing room :

The Indian Woman, a pleasing picture, by Romney.—The most prominent figure is Lady Hamilton, in the character of Queen Mab.—Mary washing the feet of Christ, by Poussin.—The Woman taken in Adultery by the same Artist.—Landscape, by C. Lorraine.—Small Painting of Rocks and Trees, by Salvator Rosa.—St. John preaching in the Wilderness, its companion, by the same Artist.—A finished sketch, by West, representing High Mass, celebrated at Windsor, upon the Institution of the order of the Garter, at which were present all its illustrious founders ; a very fine picture.

In the dining room is a noble antique statue of Bacchus, brought from Rome, about 70 years ago, by the Honourable Charles Hamilton. The head is of the finest Greek sculpture. There are also two very elegant tables of solid granite, supported by frames and fluted legs of white marble, with gilt bronze.

The library is a large room, containing a rare and choice collection of English and classical books, and ornamented with appropriate paintings on the ceiling. Adjoining the library is an apartment called the Turkish tent, fitted up with great magnificence and taste.

Upon a high hill, nearly covered with fine wood, about a mile and a half from the house we have been describing, Mr. Beckford has *nearly* completed a stupendous

a stupendous building, called the Abbey, from its cathedral-like form. The estimated expence of this erection was 500,000*l.*; how much it must have exceeded this sum cannot be actually known, as during the progress of the work, various and extensive alterations were frequently made in the original plan. It is surrounded by a stone wall, six miles in circumference: the tower of this building (built of white free-stone) is to be seen from a considerable distance, and forms a very interesting and picturesque object. We are unable to gratify the curiosity of our readers by any further account of the new erections, Mr. Beectord having determined to keep them secret from the public eye, till entirely completed.

About four miles from Fonthill, is the hamlet of **TISBURY**, famous for its excellent quarries of stone, and for being the native place and residence of Josiah Lane, who acquired considerable reputation for his skill in forming artificial rock scenery. The grotto at Oatlands, and the cascade at Bow-wood were executed by him. In **Tisbury** church-yard there is a very large hollow yew tree, eight or ten yards in circumference, from the roots of which, near the centre, eight young stems have sprung up, twisting themselves together in a curious form, and at about the height of two yards shrink into the centre of the principal trunk of the parent tree, the hollow of which they almost entirely fill up.

About four miles south from Fonthill, in the hamlet of **Timsbury**, is **WARDOUR CASTLE**, the seat of the Earl of Arundel, which may be viewed every day after 12 o'clock.

This magnificent pile was begun in the year 1776, and was upwards of 10 years building. The ruins of the old castle, which is a mile distant from the new house, still bear strong evidence of its ancient grandeur.

The south front of the modern building is orna-  
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mented



mented with pilasters and half pillars of the Corinthian order. "From the simplicity and plainness of the entrance hall, we do not expect the splendid piece of architecture to which we are immediately afterwards introduced, the rotunda staircase: the most elegant structure of the kind in England, and worthy of the magnificent apartments to which it leads. This is circular and lighted from the dome that forms its summit; two flights of stairs take a semi-circular sweep to the right and left, and conduct to a gallery or corridors, of which eight Corinthian pillars support the top, and where six uniform recesses contain within them the doors open to the different bed-chambers; a grand organ occupies one segment of the circular gallery, and a figured iron railing, with gilded ornaments, surrounds the whole.

This house contains a great number of fine pictures, by all the best masters of the old schools; and various other curious productions of art.

In the saloon, among many other fine pictures, are the following:

Head of St. Francis, by Dominichino.—Head of a Madona, by Carlo Dolce.—Head of a Hermit, by Salvator Rosa.—Portrait of one the Cliffords, by Vandyck.—Jacob's departure from Canaan for Egypt, by N. Poussin.—Jacob's meeting with Joseph, by the same master.—Holy Family, supposed to be by Raphael.—An infant Jesus, and Saint John, by Titian.—Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I. by Vandyck.

The drawing room contains among others, Sir Thomas More, by Hans Holbein.—Cardinal Reginald Pole, by the same artist.

In the blue bed chamber,  
A Dead Christ, by Hannibal Carraci; a wonderful picture.—And another of equal merit, the Crucifixion, by Rubens.

In the Chapel, a structure that displays superlative taste and magnificence, there are three immense pictures by Rubens, covering the south side, and one by that artist, and another by Guido, of equal magnitude, are their opposite companions.

The altar-piece is a dead Christ, by Cades. The altar is a most costly piece of workmanship; fixed on splendid sarcophagus of ebony, and constructed of porphyry, agate, and amber. A magnificent silver crucifix surmounts the altar, and two censers of solid gold, embossed with silver, suspended over it, contain burning frankincense.

The cabinet of Lady Arundel contains an immense number of minute curiosities. The chimney-piece is composed of lapis lazuli, and other costly marbles; among the pictures in this room are a beautiful Holy Family, by Corregio, and a Virgin and Child, by Guido.

“ In the music room is, perhaps, the most striking picture, in the whole collection, a Dead Christ, and other figures, by Joseph Ribera, commonly called *Espagneoletto*; this piece may be said to be horribly fine, approaching too nearly to nature to be pleasing.”—*Warner*.

In this room is a portrait of the celebrated Blanch, Lady Arundel, daughter of the Earl of Worcester, copied from an original picture, by Angelica Kauffman. This picture is rendered particularly interesting by the historical circumstance connected with the history of the lady. It represents her extraordinary defence of the castle, in the absence of her husband, during the civil wars in the 17th century, holding it for nine days, with only 25 men, against a party of 1300 of the parliament forces headed by Sir Edward Hungerford and Edmund Ludlow, and at length having expended her ammunition and provisions, surrendering the castle on honourable terms, which however were not observed by the captors, who wreaked their vengeance

on the buildings and plantations. Shortly after this transaction Lord Arundel returned, and severely punished their breach of faith ; he sprung a mine under the castle, and blew the greatest part of the traitors into the air. Lady Arundel, died October 28, 1649, aged 66, about six years after the siege.

The grounds and plantations surrounding this mansion are very beautifully laid out, more particularly so towards the remains of the old castle, which, as we before observed, are about a mile east of the house, near the foot of a grand amphitheatrical hill, which lifts its finely wooded sides to a great height behind it. The walk to the castle is serpentine, through woods, from whence, through many occasional openings, the distant country is viewed to great advantage :—" the Somersetshire and Wiltshire hills, Glastonbury Tor, Stourhead, &c. the magnificent objects in the immediate neighbourhood, the new stupendous non-descript structure of Mr. Beckford, and the modern mansion of Wardour. But a nearer object presently engages the attention, the nodding ruin of the castle ; its hoary walls strikingly contrasted by the gloomy mantle that envelopes their summits. A path through some neat parterres, ornamented with artificial rock work, consisting of enormous blocks of honey-combed stone, conducts to the entrance, over which appear the following lines, surmounted by an ancient head, in a niche, and the arms of the family.

Gentis arundeliæ Thomas Lanhernia proles  
 Junior, hoc meruit, primo sedere loco.  
 Ut sedit cecidit, sine crimine plectitur ille  
 Insens, insontem, seguntâ probant  
 Namquæ patris erant, Mattheus filius emit,  
 Empta auxit studio principis aucte manent,  
 Comprecor aucta diu maneant augenda per ævum,  
 Hæc dedit, cripsit restituitque Deus.

1578.

Thus

Thus translated into English :

“ Sprung from the Arundel Lanhernian race  
 Thomas, a worthy branch, possessed this place ;  
 Possessing fell ! him, guiltless, Heaven remov'd,  
 And by his son's success him guiltless prov'd.  
 By royal grace, restored to these domains,  
 Matthew, his heir, increased them and retains :  
 Through ages may they yet enlarged descend,  
 And God the gift resum'd, receiv'd, defend.”

These lines allude to the fatal exit of Sir Thomas Arundel, who was implicated with Edward, Duke of Somerset, in a charge of conspiring to murder John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and executed Feburary 26, 1552. His estates, however, did not escheat ; and his son Matthew (knighted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1574,) mentioned in the lines above, succeeded to the honour and demesne of Wardour. Little remains of the castle but an octagonal court.”

—*Warner's Excursions from Bath.*

In this court is a very deep well, into which the plate and other valuables were thrown during the siege above-mentioned.

About six miles south of Wardour Castle, is ASH-COMBE, the seat of the Honourable James Everard Arundel, remarkable for its peculiarly singular situation: the following description of it is from the elegant pen of H. P. Wyndham, Esq. “ The house is erected on a knoll, that rises, to a considerable elevation, from the deep centre of the mountainous hills with which it is closely environed on every part, in the circular form of a regular ascending amphitheatre. The lower half of their acclivities is almost uninterruptedly enriched with woods and coppices, while the upper part affords pasturage to innumerable flocks of sheep, and not unfrequently to herds of deer, that are enticed by the sweetness of the herbage to stray from the neighbouring walks of the Dorsetshire Chace, and which are seen from the house, feeding even on the highest extremities

of this lofty horizon. An inverted bason placed in the middle of a large china bowl, will give a clear idea of this romantic spot; on the circular top of the inner bason stands the house, which though not meriting the attention of the traveller, is large, modern, and convenient. From the platform round the house, the grounds abruptly ascend over a concavity of lawns, till they join the woods, which like a broad zone surround the luxuriant base of the hills. The diameter of the valley is about a quarter of a mile in breadth; a line drawn across from the summit of one hill to the summit of the other may be in length a mile or more, and as the superficial descent of the hills on all sides is nearly half a mile, the degree of acclivity and the perpendicular height may with tolerable accuracy be defined; on which account I suppose the latter to be about 400 yards. The only visible approach to the house is from the north, where a safe and excellent road is formed down the steep and rapid declivity of a narrow ridge, from the top of the hill to the entrance of the stable courts. There is a quick slope on each side of the road, part of which is thinly wooded and part divided with corn-fields. It is from hence apparent that the knoll on which the building stands is not perfectly complete, being connected with the northern summits of the hills by a steep projecting neck of land that precipitately terminates with the house."

Returning to our road we proceed to

#### HINDON,

A small borough town, consisting principally of one long street, built on the declivity of a gentle hill.

The greater part of this place was destroyed by fire in 1754. It is an ancient borough by prescription, governed by a bailiff and burgesses, and has sent two representatives to parliament ever since the seventh of Henry VI. the right of election being  
now



now vested in all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The weekly market is on Thursday, and there are two fairs, one on the Monday before Whitsunday, the other on October the 29th. There was formerly a considerable manufactory here of fine twist; but at present the town has only a small share of the linen dowlas and bed-tick manufactories carried on at Mere and the neighbourhood. The works carried on at Fonthill have afforded employment for great numbers of the poor of all ages during the last seven years. Hindon also derives considerable benefit from the custom of travellers passing on the great western road.

Hindon Church is a chapel of ease to EAST KNOYLE, a small village distant three miles south-west, remarkable only for being the birth-place of Sir Christopher Wren, so much celebrated for his extensive knowledge in architecture. He was the son of a clergyman, and born in the year 1632. He was first educated at a private school, and finished his studies in Wadham College, Oxford. Before he attained his 16th year he had made such progress in mathematics that he was able to solve the most difficult problems in geometry, and in 1657 he was chosen professor of astronomy in Gresham College.

At the restoration of Charles II. he was appointed by royal mandate Savillian Professor at Oxford. The same year the King appointed him a surveyor of the Board of Works, and the next year he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. When the plague broke out in London; in 1665 he went over to France, and spent that year, and the greatest part of the next, in the study of architecture, according to the rules laid down by the best writers ancient and modern. Having taken plans, elevations, and sections of all the public buildings in Paris, he returned to London; but found the city reduced by the great fire to a heap of rubbish. Upon that melancholy event he drew up a plan for rebuilding London,



don, in such a manner as would have done honour to the nation, by placing the Cathedral of St. Paul's in the centre from which all the streets should run in direct lines; but the disputes among the proprietors about private property defeated this laudable design.

In 1663 he was appointed surveyor general of the Board of Works, and next year finished the Grand Theatre at Oxford. He continued in great favour during the remainder of the reigns of Charles II. James II. King William and Queen Anne; but some time after the accession of George I. he was removed from all his places, for no other reason besides that of expressing his gratitude to his former royal benefactors.

During the remainder of his life he spent his time in peaceful tranquillity, and died on the 21st of February 1723, in the ninety-first year of his age.

Amongst other public buildings, contracted for and finished under the direction of this great architect, the cathedral of St. Paul's is a lasting monument of his genius, although not executed according to his original design. The Monument is one of the noblest Doric pillars in the world, and the Church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, exceeds any of the kind in England.

About seven miles from Hindon is MERE, a small market town, which gives its name to the hundred in which it is situated, at the western extremity of the county, on the borders of Somersetshire.

There was formerly a castle here, of which not the smallest vestige now remains; but near the site is an ancient camp called Whiteshole Hill.

The inhabitants of Mere are principally engaged in the manufacture of linen, dowlas, and bed-ticking.

The Church is large and handsome.

About two miles and a half from Mere, seven miles from Longleat, and 25 from Bath, is STOUR-

HEAD,

HEAD, the beautiful seat of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Baronet, anciently belonging to the Lords Stourton. Leland mentions this place in the following words: "The Lords Stourton's Place stondeth on a mean hill, the soil thereof being stony. This manor place hath two courts, the front of the inner court magnificent and high, embattled castle-like. There is a park among hills joining on the manor place. The river Stour riseth there, of six fountains, whereof three be on the north side of the park, hard within the pale; three be north also, but without the pale. The Lord Stourton giveth these six fountains in his arms."

Henry Hoare, Esq. son of Sir Richard Hoare, lord mayor of London, purchased this estate, about the beginning of the last century. The house is built of stone, and is nearly square: it is not very large; but possesses in its exterior a very respectable if not a grand appearance, and within, many magnificent as well as convenient apartments. The plan of the house was designed by Colin Campbell, the architect of Wanstead House, and author of "Vitruvius Britannicus." Some alterations were made by Mr. Hoare, and the building was completed in 1722. Since this two additional wings have been built, connected with the north and south sides, forming in the whole a facade of two hundred feet in length. These wings contain two rooms, forty-five feet by twenty-five; the one destined for a library, the other for a picture gallery.

There is a very fine and celebrated collection of paintings at Stourhead, among which are the following:

In the *Entrance Hall*, a fine room, thirty feet every way; are:—A Portrait of Henry Hoare, Esq. on horseback, by E. Dahl and J. Wootton—Another of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, the present possessor of the mansion, and his son Henry Hoare, by S. Woodfoote.

forde.—A fine Allegorical Picture, by Carlo Maratti, representing the Marquis of Pallavinci, introduced by a Genius to the Painter, who is sitting, with a canvass prepared to paint his portrait. Above an angel, with a crown of laurel over the head of the marquis; three graces, are holding the painter's pallet, another pointing up to the temple of fame, situate on the summit of a lofty rock; in the back ground are two figures, one in armour relating the heroic actions of the Marquis to another, who is recording them on his shield in letters of gold.—Augustus visiting Cleopatra, after the death of Mark Anthony, by Raphael Mengs.—Two Landscapes, copied from the originals in the Pamphile Palace at Rome, of Claude Lorraine, by Lucatelli.—Landscape of Rock and Water, by Rosa de Tivoli.—Landscape, by Gaspar Poussin—Landscape, by Nicholas Poussin.

In the *Drawing Room*, which is a very splendid apartment, 30 feet by 20, there are the following:

The Rape of the Sabines, supposed to be one of the finest works of Nicholas Poussin, and for which the sum of 2000 guineas has been offered.—The Prophet Elijah raising a dead child to life, by Rembrandt.—An altar-piece, representing the Madona and Child, St. John the Baptist, and St. Ambrozio, by Andrea del Sarto.—A holy Family, by Francis Bortolomeo de St. Marco.—The Daughter of Herodias with the head of St. John the Baptist in a charger, a copy from Carlo Dolce; a very charming picture.—A Madona and Child, by Palma Vecchio.—The Judgment of Hercules, by N. Poussin.—A Madona and Child, by Carlo Orgnani.—An Holy Family, old Copy, from the original by Raphael.—Diana and her Nymphs, by Zuccarelli.—St. John the Baptist and Lamb, by Schidoni.—A Madona, by Carlo Dolce.—A Holy Family, by Schidoni.—The Genius of History, by Sebastian Conia.—Inside of St. Peter's Church, Rome, by Paoli Paniui.—Landscape,

—Landscape, by Dominichino.—Sea View of Rocks, by Salvator Rosa; very fine.—Statue of Bacchus, by Rysbrack.

In the *Cabinet Room* are, among many others of great value, the following capital pictures :

A Landscape, with peasants going to market at break of day, by Gainborough.—Several by Bruegel.—The Temptations of St. Anthony, by Teniers.—A Landscape, by Claude Lorraine.—A Holy Family, by Anibal Caracci.—Flight into Egypt, by Carlo Marratti.—Penelope and Euriclia, by Angelica Kauffman.—Democritus, the laughing philosopher, by Salvator Rosa.

In this room there is a very curious and valuable cabinet, consisting of several compartments or stories, constructed of Ebony, Agate, Lapis Lazuli, and ornamented with solid gold, and a profusion of every precious stone, except the Diamond. On the cabinet is a very curious and rare gold medal; struck during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, upon the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

In the *Bed-Chamber* are several fine paintings and finished sketches for pictures, by Titian, Rembrandt, Guido Reni, Spagnoletto, and other great masters.

The *Dressing Room* contains, among others: The Marriage in Canaan, copied from the original of Paolo Veronese, by Sebastian Ricci.—Our Saviour restoring the Blind to sight, by the same master.—Landscape with figures by Lucatelli.

The *Outward Hall* contains: A Holy Family, by Trevisani.—Another by Andrea del Sarto.—Inside View of the Partheon in the Gardens at Stourhead, by Samuel Woodforde.—Grecian Lady at work by Angelica Kauffman.—Two historical subjects, by Lagrene.—Antique Statue of Jupiter, another of Minos.—Some Basso Relievos by Rysbrack.

Upon the *Staircase* are a great number of fine Landscapes, and Sea-pieces, by Vernet, Monperr, Salvator Rosa, Wilson, and C. W. Bampfylde, Esq.

In

In the *Dining Room*, a superb room, 45 feet by 30, there are among others the following :

The *Death of Dido*, by Guercino.—*Venus attended by the Graces*, after Guido Reni.—*Perseus and Andromeda*, after Guido.—The *Adoration of the Magi*, by Ludovico Cardi, commonly called Cigoli.—The *Denial of Peter*, by Michael Angelo de Caravaggio.—The *Annunciation*, by Francesco Albani.—*Portrait of the Cenci*, after Guido.—A *Charity*, by Schidoni.

In the *Library*, which contains a valuable collection of books, particularly topographical works, there are several very fine paintings, among which are :

A *Madona and Child*, by Guerchino.—The *Marriage of St. Catherine*, a copy from one painted by Coreggio, by Cavalucci.—A *Holy Family*, a copy from the celebrated picture by Raphael, called *La Madona della sedia*, formerly in the Pitti Palace, at Florence, by Prince Hoare, Esq.

There are fine pictures in other apartments of this house, which it would be tedious to mention here, although equally deserving the attention of the connoisseur.

Mr. Warner very truly observes: “ that the entertainment which the inside of the mansion at Stourhead affords, is surpassed by the gratification that arises from a view of its pleasure grounds.”

The mansion-house commands from its front very extensive and beautiful prospects, over a considerable part of the adjacent country; and behind the more confined but more delightful scenery of the park.

Opposite the west front of the house is a lawn of considerable extent, on each side of which are planted rows of Scotch firs, and at the end is an obelisk, 100 feet high, encircled by a range of elms. From the obelisk through an avenue, there is a most enchanting prospect of a pavilion, at the foot of which is a fine piece of water.

Over



Over the lake there was formerly a Chinese bridge, which has been judiciously removed by Sir Richard, and its office supplied by a ferry boat. Crossing the water, we pursue a path to the left leading to a most beautiful grotto, through which the river Stour pours its waters, which are received into a marble bason, placed in a recess, and used as a cold bath. Behind the bason is an elegant figure of a sleeping nymph, and these lines, written by Mr. Pope, are engraved on the margin of the bath :

“ Nymph of the grot, these sacred springs I keep,  
And to the murmur of these waters sleep ;  
Oh ! spare my slumbers, gently tread the cave,  
And drink in silence, or in silence lave.”

The figure of the nymph herself is elegantly formed, and the waters falling around her, with the gloom and stillness of the place, impresses the mind with a pleasing melancholy.

From the grotto, the path conducts us to a magnificent edifice, called the Pantheon, from its being built after the model of the noble antique temple of that name at Rome. From hence you see at one view the choicest assemblage of beautiful objects : in the front the lake below, spreading itself into its greatest breadth ; the cavern of Neptune ; a temple dedicated to Flora, and on the right a most superb antique Gothic cross, and on a handsome stone bridge, the temple of Apollo, and a profusion of groves properly diversified and adapted to their situations.

From the pleasure-ground you enter a gloomy wood, which leads you, by a gentle ascent, to a rustic pile called the Convent, in which is a good painting dug out of the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, and an ancient drawing of our Saviour. From the convent you descend into an extensive wilderness, which leads to the summit of the brow on which Alfred's tower is placed ; the building is triangular, of modern date, and built of brick, the height is 155  
feet,



feet, and the number of steps to the top 321. Nothing can be conceived more striking than the prospects from every side of this structure; round one turret of which, for the benefit of the view, a gallery has been in the securest manner railed in.

Over the portal, on the outside, is the following inscription :

“ Alfred the Great, A. D. 879, on this summit erected his standard against Danish invaders. To him we owe the origin of juries, and the creation of a naval force. Alfred, the light of a benighted age, was a philosopher and a Christian; the father of his people, and the founder of the English monarchy and liberties.”

The gothic cross we have mentioned above was purchased of the corporation of Bristol, by Mr. Henry Hoare, and transported by him to Stourhead. It consists of two ranges of arched niches, surmounted by figures of angels, with shields and pinnacles, and terminating in one above, more elegant than the others. This structure was originally erected in the High Street of Bristol, near the Tolsey, in 1373; and adorned in succeeding times with the effigies of four kings, who had been benefactors to the city, John, Henry III. Edward III. and Edward IV. In the year 1633 it was taken down, enlarged, and raised higher, and four more statues added, viz. Henry VI. Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I. At length, however, the corporation of Bristol were determined to remove it, and accordingly sold it to Mr. Hoare, for a very small sum.

The parish church of Stourton, is a small but handsome and uniform Gothic structure. It contains the monument of William, the second Lord of Stourton (who died 1522), and Thomasine his wife; there is also some painted glass in the windows, said to allude to the history of a baron of that ancient family.

About three miles north from Stourton, upon the road  
road

road from thence to Frome, is the village of MAIDEN BRADLEY, where there was formerly an hospital for lepers, which was afterwards changed into a religious house for canons regular; in which state it continued till the suppression of monasteries, when its annual revenues were valued at 180l. 10s. 4d.—Some years ago a silk manufactory upon a small scale was established at this place by Mr. Ward, of Bruton, and a great many of the poor children of the parish obtained employment.

At Maiden Bradley is BRADLEY HOUSE, a seat of the Duke of Somerset. It is a plain substantial mansion, with two large wings projecting at right angles from the body of the structure; it is situated close by the parish church, and was originally designed only for a hunting box, and for occasional residence.

*Journey from Hindon to Bradford; through Warminster, Westbury, and Trowbridge.*

The road from Hindon to Warminster passes over an uninteresting country, through the villages of Brixton Deverill, Hill Deverill, and Longbridge, all taking their name from the river Deverill, upon which they are situated.

#### WARMINSTER,

Is situated in the hundred of the same name, and is the most western town in the county.

It is a large and populous town, consisting chiefly of one long street, situated on the river Willy, which rises not far from it, and pursues a south-west course until it joins the Avon, at Salisbury, as before mentioned. Camden calls this place *Verlucio*, an ancient town mentioned by Antoninus in his itinerary, and derives its present name from *Ver*, part of the original appellation, and *minster*, the Saxon word for a monastery, which was formerly here.

This town before the Conquest possessed peculiar privileges, for according to Domesday Book, it was

neither gelded nor rated by hides, that is, it was not taxed.

Notwithstanding the authority of Camden's opinion as to this place being the Roman *Verlucio*, several learned antiquaries, have disputed the fact, the Rev. Mr. Leman of Bath determines *Verlucio* to have been near Hedington, Mr. Salmon at Devizes, Dr. Stukeley and others at Westbury: we are inclined to support the opinion of Camden.

The principal business of the town is the woollen manufactory, and the making of malt. It was always remarkable for its great corn market, Leland mentions Warminster as "a principal market for corn," and Camden says "it is scarcely credible what quantities of wheat are brought hither and sold every week." The cloathing trade has of late years greatly increased and is still increasing. The town is also much improved in buildings and appearance within the last 20 years. It has three fairs yearly, on the days mentioned in our list, for cattle, sheep, cheese, toys, &c. The municipal government of the town is superintended by the neighbouring magistrates, assisted by constables annually chosen at the court-leet of the Marquis of Bath, who is lord of the manor.

The Church is situated at the west end of the town, and is a handsome building with a square tower. There is also a chapel for the convenience of the inhabitants, where prayers are read every Wednesday and Friday: two dissenting Meeting-houses, and a Free Grammar-School, for the education of 20 poor boys of the town, endowed with 30*l.* per annum, under the patronage of the Marquis of Bath.

The manor of Warminster, with many others in this county, formerly belonged to the family of Hungerford; but in the reign of Edward IV. they went by marriage to Lord Hastings, who suffered in the reign of Richard III. when that prince gave all his estates to the Duke of Norfolk

Near

Near Warminster is a lofty eminence, called *Clay Hill*, which may be seen for many miles round the country, and upon which there is a small double trenched circular camp. This place is supposed to be the *Eglea*, mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle, where Alfred encamped the night before he attacked the Danes at Eddington. On the downs north-east of the town are two camps about a mile and a half asunder: the northern double trenched, called *Battle-bury*, probably Danish; the southern square single trenched called *Scratchbury*, with a barrow in it.

A very little more than four miles west from Warminster is *LONGLEAT*, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, seventeen miles from Bath, on the road to Stourton. This is an ancient and magnificent structure, for size and number of apartments equal perhaps to any house in England. It is said to have been the first well built house in the kingdom. It was begun in 1567 by Sir John Thynne, on the site of the dissolved priory, purchased by him of Sir John Horsey, in the 32 of Henry VIII. and was twelve years building.

The house is 220 feet in front, and 120 in depth; the height proportionable to these dimensions; and the number of rooms is said to amount to 170. This noble mansion is supposed to contain the finest collection of original portraits of the most illustrious characters in the English history, who figured in the 16th and 17th centuries, of any in the kingdom; and among others of more ancient date, is a remarkably interesting portrait of the celebrated Jane Shore, which is worthy of admiration, not so much for its execution or design, as for the beauty, humility, and resignation which are divinely worked in the countenance.

The park and grounds surrounding the house occupy a space twelve miles in circumference, exhibiting, "a beautiful variety of country, rich natu-

ral scenery, heightened by the judicious exertions of art in noble well-disposed plantations. All is on the great scale, and every thing around recalls the remembrance of ancient English magnificence.”—*Warner*.

A considerable branch of the river Frome runs through the valley very near the mansion, which very much encreases the beauty of the scenery.

Among the trees which ornament the grounds, are a profusion of venerable oaks, many of the largest Scotch spruce and silver firs in England, and abeles upwards of 120 feet high. In a grove near the house stands the stump of the ancient Weymouth pine, the parent of that species of trees in this kingdom ; a hurricane destroyed the upper part a long time ago.

There was formerly a very fine aviary at this seat, containing a variety of rare birds : at present the most curious tenants of this place are a male and female kangaroo, brought from Botany Bay, and presented by their Majesties to the Dowager Marchioness of Bath. They are the only animals of the kind in England.

We shall make a digression from our road in order to visit the town of Heytesbury, about five miles south-east from Warminster.

“The road from Warminster to Heytesbury presents many important and interesting objects to the notice of the antiquary ; extensive and commanding fortifications, Roman villas, and other objects relative to the history and manners of the several classes of people who have inhabited this island.”—*Britton's Beauties of Wiltshire*.

The most conspicuous of the fortifications are, Knook Castle, Scratchbury, Battlebury, and Old Camps, before mentioned. The first of these is in form of a parallelogram, containing within its mound an area of two acres. At a place called Pitmead, a little to the west of the Warminster road

to Sarum, between the villages of Norton and Bishopstrow several curious Roman porticoes and tessellated pavements have been discovered. In the latter end of the year 1786 part of a Roman pavement was accidentally discovered; a particular account of which was transmitted by a lady residing in the neighbourhood to the late Daines Barrington, which was afterwards given to the public by the Society of Antiquaries, accompanied by engravings.

The pavement was fifty-six feet long by ten feet wide, on this floor lay a mutilated statue of Diana; with a hare at her feet. The greater part of the pavement was taken up and conveyed to Longleat, by order of the late Marquis of Bath, where it now is.

In 1787 Mr. Cunnington, a gentleman of Heytesbury, devoted to antiquarian researches, discovered another tessellated pavement in Pitmead, nineteen feet three inches square. This was unfortunately much broken, so that great part of its original beauty was lost, but sufficient of it remained entire to prove the elegance of the design and the execution. It consisted of a circular area, inclosed within a square frame, edged in the inside with a neat border, and another on the outside with a labyrinth fret, a bird and flowers seemed to have formed the ornaments of the area. There is very little doubt that these remains belonged to a Roman villa, and were part of a sudatory or sweating bath. Several porticos, of considerable dimensions and extensive foundations, were also discovered belonging to the same building.

Subsequent to these discoveries a vast number of small brass coins were dug up at Bishopstrow, half a mile from Pitmead, contained in three urns.

#### HEYTESBURY

Is a small but agreeable town, pleasantly situated on the river Willey, in the hundred to which it gives its name. It consists principally of one street, and  
is



is a borough by prescription, sending two representatives to parliament, elected by the burgage-holders. The Church is a venerable structure, and is collegiate, having four prebendaries, belonging to Salisbury. The building is in form of a cross, the tower being in the centre.

The government of the town is vested in a bailiff, assisted by some of the principal inhabitants. The market has been long discontinued, and of the two annual fairs formerly held, at this place, only one, on the 14th of May, is now kept.

Heytesbury, in ancient times, was of some consequence, being for some time the residence of the Empress Maud, during her contest with Stephen for the crown of England. The manor belonged to the Hungerfords in the 13th century, and Lord Hungerford, in 1470, built the church; his successor, Walter Lord Hungerford, lord high treasurer of England, endowed an hospital here for 12 poor men, and one woman; and also a house for a schoolmaster, who was to be a priest, and not only teach grammar, but overlook the poor men. The hospital, with great part of the town, was burnt in 1766, and rebuilt in 1769.

The principal employment of the inhabitants is in the clothing manufactories, which have tended very much of late years to the increase and improvement of the town.

Sir William A'Court, Baronet, has a handsome seat about a mile north of Heytesbury.

Returning to Warminster in order to pursue our original route, upon which we find nothing requiring notice until, at five miles from Warminster, we reach

### WESTBURY,

An ancient borough town, supposed to derive its name from its situation on the western extremity of Salisbury Plain. Mr. Gough in his Camden says, "the name of Westbury is purely Saxon, derived probably

probably from its being one of the considerable towns in the west, or from its situation west from a burgh, or Roman station, as they call Selwood Forest, in its neighbourhood, the western wood, by way of eminence."

The town consists chiefly of one long street, running nearly north and south, at the south extremity of which is the church, a venerable gothic structure, in which is a monument to the memory of Sir James Ley, Lord Ley, of Ley, in the county of Devon, lord chief justice of Ireland and England, and created by Charles I. Earl of Marlborough, which title was held by his only son, and became extinct in his brother, in 1680.

Westbury received its charter of incorporation from Edward I. By which the municipal government was vested in a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and other inferior officers. Representatives to parliament have been sent by this place ever since the original summons in the reign of Henry VI. The right of election is in every tenant of any burgage tenement in fee for lives, or ninety years, determinable on lives; or by a copy of court-roll, paying a burgage rent of four-pence, or two-pence, yearly, being resident within the borough, and not begging alms. The mayor is the returning officer, and the number of voters does not exceed twenty-four.

The mayor holds a court-leet for the borough, and the steward of the Earl of Abingdon, lord of the hundred, holds another in May, for the hundred of Westbury.

The Town-hall is a handsome and convenient building. The market is on Friday, and there are three annual fairs.

The clothing manufactories are here carried to a considerable extent, and furnish employment for great numbers of poor people of the town and neighbourhood. "The following slight sketch will  
shew

shew the process pursu'd in this branch of British manufacture, and at the same time give an idea of the number of people to whom we are obliged for every coat we wear. The English fleece is sorted, according to its different qualities, by the woolstapler, and the Spanish has all its pitch marks clipped off. It is then carried to the dye-house, and when cleansed from its impurities, (by scowering it in a furnace of hot water) dyed, and returned to the manufacturer; afterwards scribbled, carded, and spun into yarn, by machinery; twisted; woven in the loom; burled, by knipping off its knots and burs; milled by the fuller; dubbed with cards of teazel; stretched on the tenter-hooks; dressed; sheared; pressed between heated planks, and press paper, and packed for the markets."—*Warner's Excursions from Bath.*

The hundred of Westbury is but one parish; but besides Westbury Church there are two chapels of ease; one at Bratton and another at Dilton. According to the returns under the population act, this hundred contains 5,921 inhabitants.

A little to the north of Westbury is an agreeable village, called EDDINGTON, or Heddington. It is said to have received its name from William de Edington, who was Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England in the reign of Edward III. and who built and endowed a collegiate church at this place, for a provost and twelve priests. It was afterwards changed into a friary of an order called *Bon-hommes*, that is good men; who were under the government of a rector: and so high were they held in estimation by the devotees of those times, that great donations were left to the place, as appears from the state of its revenues at the dissolution of monasteries, which were valued at no less than 442l. 9s. 7d. The ruins of the monastery were removed by the people of the village to repair their houses, so that not the least vestige of it is now to be seen.

Edington was anciently called *Athendune*; and is famous

famous in the annals of history for having been the place where Alfred the Great obtained a signal victory over the Danes.

About two miles south-west of this village is an ancient fortification, called **BRATTON CASTLE**, into which the Danes, after sustaining the defeat just mentioned, threw themselves. It is situated on the summit of a high hill, which commands all the country round, and is encompassed with two deep ditches, with proportionate ramparts. It is of an oval form, 350 paces in length and 200 broad. Near the middle is an oblong barrow, 60 paces in length, which probably was the burying-place of the Danes slain here. Within the intrenchments there have been dug up several pieces of old iron armour. It had only two entrances, which were fortified with outworks: one of these is open to the south-east, and the other to the north-east, leading directly to the place where the battle is supposed to have been fought.

On the south-west side of the hill upon which this fortification is situated there is the figure of a white horse, in a walking attitude, cut out of the chalk forming the substratum of the soil, in the same manner as that we have before described at Cherril, near Calne, and there is very little doubt that this figure is also of as comparatively modern workmanship, and not as some learned antiquaries have supposed a memorial to commemorate the victory gained by Alfred at Eddington. It is not, however, exactly known when this last was cut out.

At a small distance from Bratton Castle is a pleasant village called **LEIGH**, supposed to have been the place where Alfred encamped the evening before he engaged with the Danes, when that pious prince spent the whole night in devotion. In this village there is a field, wherein is a garden encompassed with a deep moat, and by the inhabitants called the palace of one of the Saxon kings.

About

About a mile and a half from the village of Eddington is *Stoke Park*, the seat of Joshua Smith, Esq.

This place was purchased by the present proprietor in the year 1780, who immediately pulled down the old mansion house, and in 1786 began to erect a new one, upon a more elevated situation. This building was finished in about five years, and is remarkably elegant and convenient.

The park contains a great number of very fine elms, and a very fine piece of water, which rises under a ridge of Salisbury Plain, and after forming seven different cascades in its progress, unites and forms a lake of considerable dimensions.

The pleasure grounds are very beautifully laid out and adorned with an infinite number of botanical plants of the finest description, intermixed with a variety of indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs.

The village of Stoke has been greatly improved by Mr. Stoke, by the erection of comfortable habitations for the peasant and his family with a sufficiency of garden ground, to supply them with vegetables.

About two miles from Edington, upon the road to Trowbridge, is STEEPLE ASHTON, which Leland describes, as "a praty litle market town, and hath praty buildings. It standyth much by clothiers. There is in it a very fair church, builded in the mind of men now living. The spired steeple of stone, is very faire and high, and of that it is called Steeple Ashton. Robert Long, clothier, builded the north isle, Walter Lucas the south, of their proper costs. The abbey of Ramsay, in Huntingdonshire, had both parsonage; impropriate, and the whole lordship. Sir Thomas Semar hath it now of the king, almost with the whole hundred of Hörwell, alias Whoreweldown, with much fair woods."

The spire of this church, constructed of wood, covered with lead, suffered considerable damage  
in



in a storm, in 1670, being beat down by lightning.

Three miles from this village, and five from Westbury, is

### TROWBRIDGE,

A large town, situate on the river Were; it was originally called Trolbridge, and a tithing or liberty in the parish, and a large common near it, have the name of Trowle. Leland however calls it *Thorough Bridge*, and says, "It stands on a rocky hill, is well builded on a hill, and flourisheth by drapery. Joseph Terumber, a very rich clothier, built a notable fair house here, which he left to two chantry priests in the church; and a little alms-house by the church for six poor men, at threepence per week each. The church is lightsome and fair."

There was formerly a castle here belonging to the ancient Dukes of Lancaster, which however was "clean down," in Leland's time, except two of its seven great towers; and now not the least remains of any part are to be seen. The Earls of Sarum were the ancient lords of this place, then the Dukes of Lancaster, and, in Leland's time, the Earl of Hertford. A court for the duchy of Lancaster is held here annually about Michaelmas.

Here is a good stone bridge over the river Were, but the houses are in general irregular and ill built, except such as have been lately erected.

The town is remarkable for its manufactory of woollen cloth, some of the finest sort being made here, entirely of Spanish wool, and said to be the best in the kingdom.

• The weekly market is on Saturday.

At HIXTON, four miles east from Trowbridge, there was a convent of nuns, founded by Ella, Countess of Salisbury, in the reign of Henry II. The town of Trowbridge, and the immediate neighbourhood, derives considerable benefit from the canals, that have been begun and completed during the last 20 years, which open a very extensive communica-



tion by water with all parts of the kingdom. The Kennet and Avon canal passes through Trowbridge, and at Bath joins the Avon, which is navigable from thence through Bristol, to the Severn. Between Trowbridge and Bath, the Dorset and Somerset canal enters the Kennet and Avon, and thus connects the towns of Sturminster and Stalbridge, in Dorsetshire, and Wincanton, Bruton, and Frome, in Somersetshire. A few miles nearer Bath the Somerset coal canals bring into the Kennet and Avon that valuable article, to be forwarded through a great extent of country, at a price it could not otherwise be attainable. The eastern course of the Kennet and Avon canal, is from Trowbridge to Devizes, from thence to Hungerford, and at Newbury, it enters the navigable Kennet river, which joins falls into the Thames at Reading, thus opening to the western counties a direct communication, by water, with the metropolis of the kingdom.

The Berks and Wilts canal unite with the Kennet and Avon, a little to the west of Devizes, and pursuing a north and north-east course, it communicates all the advantages we have before mentioned to the towns of Chippenham, Calne, Wotton Bassett, Swindon, and all the northern district of Wiltshire. This canal also joins the Thames, after passing through the north of Berkshire.

Between Trowbridge and Bradford, a distance of about three miles, we meet with nothing requiring particular notice, beyond the interest that the traveller will naturally take in the general appearance of industry throughout this part of the county, the principal seat of the broad cloth manufacture.

#### BRADFORD

Is situated on the banks of the Avon, near the middle of the western boundary of Wiltshire, on the borders of Somersetshire, within a cove formed by the surrounding small hills, which skreen the town from the cold northern winds. The Avon  
here

here is generally called the lower Avon, and is considerably increased by the waters of the Were from Trowbridge.

The name of this place is supposed to be derived from the Saxon word *Bradenford*, signifying the broad ford, which it was necessary to pass to enter the town. Over this ford there is now a handsome stone bridge.

Although this place is of no very great extent, with respect to the number of its houses and inhabitants, yet it is of considerable importance in the commercial world; great quantities of the finest broad-cloths being manufactured here, which are remarkable for being composed of the finest mixtures, owing in a great measure to the water of the river on which the town stands being peculiarly qualified for dying the best colours. The streets are narrow and irregular; but they contain many good houses. The town was greatly damaged by a fire on the 30th April 1742. The Church is a large and ancient building: in the chancel of which is a handsome altar-piece, coarsely ornamented with a painting that was intended to represent the last supper. Here are several handsome marble monuments, and a good organ. In this church are two windows of painted glass, said to represent the actions of Christ and his apostles. These windows were a present from John Ferrett, Esq. of London, a native of Bradford, who died in 1770. This gentleman left also a donation of 10l. to be laid out in bread, and distributed among the poor monthly; also, a smaller bequest, to be laid out in moral and religious books, and given to the poor. Bradford is a vicarage, in which the chapels of ease belonging to the hamlets of Westwood, Holt, Allford, South Wraxhall, Stoke Yeovill, and Winsley, are included.

Near the church is a Charity School, for the education of sixty-five children, which was opened

in January 1712, and supported since by various donations and voluntary subscriptions. There is an Alms-house at the west end of the town, founded by John Hall, Esq. the last of his family, which had resided at Bradford ever since the reign of Edward I.

The management of the poor of this town is singular; it is entrusted to one overseer, elected by housekeepers paying the ninepenny rate, whose place is for life, at a salary of five hundred pounds per annum. The health of the poor is also attended to by the year, for which the surgeon has a salary of two hundred and fifty guineas per annum; besides two shillings and sixpence, for every delivery and inoculation.

The population of Bradford cannot be estimated at much short of 10,000 inhabitants; of which the greatest part are employed in the cloth manufactories. These are perhaps conducted on a scale more extensive and regular than at any other place in the county or in the kingdom. One manufactory alone employs from 1000 to 1500 people.

We regret to observe that this abundant employ for the lower classes of the people is not attended by any improvement in their moral character; on the contrary they are in general dissolute and uncleanly; so much so as to exhibit many instances of those diseases which are the consequence of depraved habits of life, and a total inattention to cleanliness.

We find nothing very remarkable in the ancient history of this place, except that in the time of the Saxons it became distinguished for a great battle fought between Kenilwark, King of the West Saxons, and his kinsman Cuthred. Adhelm, bishop of Sherborn, founded a nunnery here, about the year 706, which was totally destroyed by the Danes, and never afterwards restored. In the year 959, a synod was held at this town, to elect the famous Dunstan bishop of Worcester.

In the reign of Edward I. Bradford once returned representatives to parliament, whose names are preserved in Willis's *Notitia Parliamentaria*.

The manor, with the parsonage, was given by King Ethelred to Shaftesbury Abbey, A. D. 1001, together with the monastery founded by St. Adhelm.

Upon the dissolution of religious houses, the parsonage was given to the dean and chapter of Bristol, and the manor is become the property of Mr. Methuen, of Corsham.

It is said that the celebrated Duchess of Kingston formerly resided in this town, at a large mansion now let out in tenements.

The weekly market is on Monday.

Three miles north-west of Bradford, at **MONKTON FARLEY**, there was a Cluniac Priory, founded by Hugh de Bohun, in the year 1615, subject to Lewes, valued at the dissolution at 153l. It was granted to Sir Edward Seymour, whose descendants still enjoy the estate; the Duke of Somerset having a seat here.

Upon opening the foundation of the Chancel in 1744, three flat stones were discovered, and afterwards a fourth, with the effigies and epitaph of Prior Lawrence, and an altar tomb, with the following inscription:

*"Hic Jacet Ilbertus de Chat bonitate refertus,  
Qui cum Brontonæ dedit hic per plurima dona."*

In the front of the altar was a tomb with a skeleton upwards of six feet in length, and on the cover of the tomb his effigies: with a lion at the feet. A grave on the north side of the altar contained some bones, and on the south side was the floor of a small chapel. About twenty years before three plain tombs and a heap of bones had been found.

At the little village of **HOLT**, about three miles from Bradford, there is a mineral spring; the waters

of which are said to be efficacious in the cure of various diseases particularly the scurvy.

There are about fifty detached houses in this village. The church is small and ancient.

*Journey from Devizes to Malmesbury, through Melksham and Chippenham.*

DEVIZES is a large town, situated near the centre of the county, and containing a variety of the most evident marks of antiquity; but whether of British or Roman origin is not determined. It is called by Florence of Worcester *Divisor*, on account of its having formerly been divided between our kings and the bishops of Salisbury; by Matthew of Westminster is called *Visæ*; by Walter Hemingford *Wiæ*, and by Leland *The Vics*. Dr. Stukely derives the name from the last syllable of its Roman appellation *Punctuobice*. There is no doubt but this place was not only well known to, but occupied by, the Romans, as many of their coins have been dug up here at different periods.

In 1714 a large urn, full of Roman coins, was found buried under the ruins of an ancient building near Devizes; and several brass statues of heathen deities, were found crowded between flat stones, and covered with Roman brick. This collection of deities, which was carried about the kingdom as a shew, and is supposed to have been buried about the year 234, when the Roman troops were called out of Britain, consisted of a Jupiter Ammon, about four inches long, weighing somewhat more than four ounces; Neptune with his trident, the teeth of which are much shorter than usually represented; this figure is about four inches in length, and weighs four ounces; a Bacchus much of the same weight and dimensions; a Vulcan, something less than any of the figures already mentioned; a Venus, about six inches long, the left arm broken off, but the figure much the best finished of any in the whole collection; a Pallas, with a spear, shield, and helmet,  
between



between three and four inches in length ; a Hercules, about four inches long, weighing six ounces and a half. Besides these were a Mercury, a Vestal Virgin, the wolf with Romulus and Remus, some Egyptian deities, and a coin of the emperor Alexander Severus.

There was formerly a very strong castle here, of which Leland gives the following account : “ that it stood on the south-west side of the town, stately advanced on a high ground, defended partly by nature, partly by dikes. It was made by Bishop Roger, and such a piece of castle-work, so costly, and so strongly, was never afore nor since set up, by any Bishop of England. The keep or dungeon on an hill, cast up by hand, is a piece of work of incredible cost. (It is now a garden.) There appeared in the gate six or seven places for portcullises, and much goodly building was in it. It was then ruined, part of the front of the towers of the gate of the keep, and the chapel in it were carried, full unprofitably, to build Mr. Baynton’s place at Bramham, scant three miles off, and divers goodly towers in the outer wall were going to ruin. The principal gate leading into the town was yet of great strength.”

Dr. Walker, in his notes on Spelman’s Life of Alfred, ascribes the castle of Devizes to this monarch ; but Dr. Stukely, on the contrary, positively asserts that it must have been the work of the Romans. The earliest account we have of it in our historians however agrees with Leland that it was erected by Roger Bishop of Sarum.” Mathew Paris describes it as having been the most splendid castle in Europe.

When Stephen of Blois broke the oath he had sworn to Henry, that he would support the title of the Empress Matilda, he obtained the crown of England, by the intrigues of his brother Henry, the Bishop of Winchester, and, Roger, Bishop of Salisbury. In consequence of such important services, he gave the castle and lordship of Devizes to the latter ;



latter ; but upon the Bishop of Winchester's deserting the interest of his brother, the Bishop of Salisbury, together with the Bishop of Ely, his nephew, followed his example, which so enraged the haughty king, that he determined, if possible, to seize them both.

The bishop of Salisbury, having received intimation of the king's intentions, sent his nephew, the bishop of Ely, to take possession of the castle of Devizes, where he had hoarded up an immense treasure.

In the mean time the bishop of Salisbury together with his son (who was then only a youth), were taken prisoners by the king, with whom, and his retinue, he marched to besiege the bishop of Ely, in the castle of Devizes. The bishop, determined not to give up easily, made a most vigorous defence ; and he was rather prompted to use his utmost endeavours to preserve the place, from the hopes he entertained of receiving assistance from the Earl of Gloucester, who commanded the army of Matilda.

Stephen, fearful that he should be obliged to raise the siege, and being likewise in great want of money, to pay his foreign mercenaries, determined to force the bishop to surrender. To this effect, he ordered a gallows to be erected in sight of the castle, and sent a messenger to inform the bishop, that, unless the castle was instantly delivered up, he would hang the young man (the bishop of Salisbury's son), on the gibbet.

The bishop still refusing to comply, the youth was led to the gallows, with the halter about his neck. This was an affecting sight to the Bishop of Salisbury, who earnestly entreated his nephew to surrender, swearing that he would neither eat or drink until he complied with the king's demand. This procured a respite for the innocent youth, but the bishop continuing to persist in his obstinacy three days,

days, his uncle, who had fasted during the whole of that time, was seized with a quartian ague, which put an end to his life.

When the bishop of Ely heard that his uncle was dead, he delivered up the castle, and the king found therein forty thousand marks of silver; a prodigious sum, when we consider the scarcity of money, and its value in those days. This castle was ever afterwards considered as a place of great strength, and the government of it bestowed on one of the greatest of the nobility. In the Civil Wars between Charles I. and his Parliament it was besieged several times; but the army of the Parliament having taken the place, they demolished the walls and other fortifications; since which time it has been totally neglected, and few remains of it are now to be seen. The site of the castle is converted into pleasure-gardens.

The town consists of two principal streets, running parallel to each other, and between them are several smaller ones. The modern houses are all built of brick, the more ancient are chiefly built of timber, but upon a very good plan, and among them are several very good inns for the accommodation of travellers. There are two parish Churches, dedicated to St. John and St. James, large and handsome structures, a Chapel, and a Meeting-house for protestant dissenters. There is a good Charity School in this town, for seventy boys and sixteen girls. The town received its first charter of incorporation from the Empress Maud, which has been since confirmed by several of our monarchs. Edward III. greatly enlarged the privileges of the burgess, placing them upon an equality with the citizens of Westminster, and the burgesses of Oxford; by a charter of Charles I. confirming all its ancient privileges, the government of the town was vested in a mayor, recorder, eleven aldermen, called masters, and thirty-six common-council men.

The

The free burgesses, who are made such by the corporation to an unlimited number, are the electors of the representatives in parliament. Their number is at present not more than thirty. Members were sent from this town to all the parliaments of Edward I. only four returns were made during the reign of Edward II. since the fourth of Edward III. the returns appear to be regular.

The inhabitants of Devizes are much engaged in the woollen manufactures, which employ great numbers of the poor, and the trade of the town has been considerably encreased since the completion of the canals we have before mentioned. The market is on Thursday, and it is abundantly supplied with all kinds of corn, wool, cheese, cattle, &c. from the surrounding country.

In the town of Devizes, on the base of a pillar which supports the sign of the bear, is an inscription, recording a very remarkable instance of divine vengeance immediately inflicted on an unhappy wretch, who repeatedly called God to witness the truth of what she asserted, though it was a falsehood. She solemnly affirmed that she had paid money for some corn she had bought, and wished God would strike her dead if she had not; she died, and the money was found in her hand. Near it is an ancient stone pillar, probably the remains of a cross.

There are several handsome houses in the environs of Devizes; particularly one belonging to Mrs. Addington, the mother of Lord Sidmouth, and *New Park*, a seat of James Sutton, Esq. which is described by Mr. Repton as being extremely beautiful.

About two miles north-west of Devizes is a village called *RUNDWAY*, remarkable for a battle fought near it between the army of Charles I. and that of the Parliament, in the month of July, 1643, when the latter were routed, and a complete victory

tory obtained by the King's party. On a hill adjoining to the village is a square camp, with a single trench, supposed to be Roman. The south side of this camp is 140 paces long, the north 160, the west 37, and the east 150.

At STERT WOOD, near Devizes, to the south, there is great treble work on a hill.

At HEDDINGTON, about four miles from Devizes, was a Roman town, the foundations of the houses being still visible for a mile together.

Some have been of opinion that this was the Verlucio mentioned by Antoninus; but it is generally supposed that Verlucio was situated about half a mile north of Westbury, where the ruins of a large town were discovered, and where many Roman coins have been dug up; and from this town it is believed that Westbury had its origin. It has already been observed that Camden places Verlucio at Warminster.

About five miles south of Devizes, upon the road to Salisbury, is *Steeple*, or *East Lavington*, commonly called *Market Lavington*, from its great corn-market on Wednesdays. This market appears to have subsisted for nearly four centuries; for we find that in the 35th of Henry VI. 1457, William Beauchamp, first Lord of St. Amand, bequeathed his body to be buried in the chantry of the chapel of this place, and died possessed of the manor of *Cheping Lavington*, in the county of Wilts, which epithet is (as we have before observed with respect to Chippenham) synonymous to *market*.

About half-way between Devizes and Melksham, is SEEND GREEN, a small but remarkably pleasant village; it is advantageously situated at the point where the great roads from Salisbury to Bath and Devizes into Somersetshire, through Trowbridge, meet.

MELKSHAM, about eight miles from Devizes, is  
a very

a very large village, containing many well-built houses. This place has grown into considerable importance through the industry of its inhabitants, and its advantageous communication with the other manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood: great quantities of broad cloth, of superior quality, are manufactured here, and there is a large market for live stock every other Monday. There is a turnpike branches off on the left from hence to Holt, three miles and a half from Bradford. At Holt there is a medicinal spring, and a seat of Mr. Methuen.

Between Melksham and Chippenham, two miles to the right of our road, is *SPY PARK*, the seat of Sir Edward Baynton. This place is chiefly remarkable for having been “the residence of the greatest wit, the greatest profligate, and the greatest penitent, of the seventeenth century, the Earl of Rochester.” The house is erected in a very advantageous situation for beauty, and extent of prospect. But we were sorry to observe the surrounding grounds have been robbed of their natural ornaments; much of the wood has been lately cut down.

Returning to our road, we pass *LAYCOCK ABBEY*, the seat of the dowager Lady Shrewsbury, situated near the extremity of a village of the same name, which we have already mentioned. “The mansion and its adjuncts from the entrance-gate form a very pleasing picture: a gothic building, with an irregular but elegant front, situated in a wide and fertile flat, sprinkled with venerable trees, through which winds the Avon, yet an infant stream, leading its humble waters (to the right of the house under a small old stone bridge with pointed arches, the whole backed by distant hills richly wooded.”—*Warner's Excursions from Bath.*

Several parts of the original building of Laycock Abbey still remain entire; in that part which was  
the



the cloister, under a flat stone, are deposited the remains of the foundress.

The dormitory is also shewn; from the parapet of which, they tell you, a nun took a most desperate leap, in order to escape from her confinement.

There are several good paintings at this house, among which are some portraits of the Talbot family; one of Charles I. by Vandyke, and an original of Henry VIII.

The hall is a very magnificent room, of considerable dimensions, and justly proportioned; it is curiously decorated with various figures in *terra cotta*, moulded with exquisite art, and fixed in little gothic niches, formed in the walls of the sides and ends.

Passing through Chippenham, which we have already described, we proceed on our journey to Malmesbury.

On the right of our road four miles from Chippenham, near Stanton St. Quintin, is DRAYCOT HOUSE, belonging to Sir J. T. Long, Bart. Mr. Gough, in his Camden's Britannia, says. "Dr. Buckeridge, bishop of Rochester and Ely, who died 1631, was born here. Mr. Aubrey in his distress found a particular friend in Lady Long, and was going to Draycot, when death overtook him about 1700, at Oxford, after having spent the earlier part of his life in the illustration of our early antiquities, and those of this county in particular, of which he was a native, being born at Easton Piers or Percy, near Kingston St. Michael's, in Damerham hundred, about 1625."

### MALMESBURY

Is an ancient town, pleasantly situated on the side of a hill, round which the Avon flows, nearly in the centre of the hundred to which it gives name, at the north-west extremity of the county, on the borders of Gloucestershire, about five miles from Tetbury.

Malmesbury has at different periods borne the following appellations: *Caer Bladon, Ingleborn, Mal-*



*dulphi Urbs, Adhelmsberig, Medunum, and Medunesburgh.*

Leland describes this place in the following words. "The toun of Malmesbury standeth on the very top of a great slaty rock, and is wonderfully defended by nature: for Newton water cometh two miles from north to the town, and Avon water cometh by west, and they meet about a bridge at the south east part of the town, and run so near together in the bottom of the west suburb, that there within a burbolt shot the town is peninsulated. It has four gates all ruinous. The walls in many places stand full up, but now very feeble (at present only the earth works remain): nature hath diked the town strongly. It was some time a castle of great fame, wherein the town hath since been builded: for in the beginning of the Saxons reign, as far as I can learn, Malmesbury was no town. The castle was named of the Britons *Caer Bladun*; the Saxons first called it *Ingelburn*, and after of one Maidulphus, a Scot, that taught good letters there, and after procured an abbey there to be made, it was named Maidulphobyri: i. e. Maidulphi curia. The king of the West Saxons and a bishop of Winchester were founders of this abbey. Adhelm was then, after Maidulph, abbot there, and after bishop of Sherburn. This St. Adhelm, is patron of the place. The town hath a great privilege of a fair, about the feast of St. Adhelm, at the which time the town keepeth a band of harnesid men to see peace kept, and this is one of the brags of the town, and they be furnished with harness."—"There were in the Abbey church yard three Churches. The abbey church, a right magnificent thing, where there were two steples, one that had a mightie high pyramis, and fell dangerously in hominum memoria: it stood in the middle of the transeptum of the church: and was a mark to all the country about, the other yet standeth, a great square tower

tower at the west end of the church. The towns men a late bought this church of the king, and made it their parish church."

In the *Collectanea* of the same author we find that the first religious institution at this place was a house of English nuns, under the direction of the celebrated Dinoth, Abbot of Banchor, who flourished in the year 603. These nuns, however, were suppressed, for their great irregularity of conduct, by St. Austin, archbishop of the Saxons. This nunnery, according to tradition, was situated near the south bridge, without the town, on the road to Chippenham. About thirty years after the suppression of this institution, one Maldulphus, a Scottish monk, who lived as a hermit in the neighbourhood, begged a piece of ground, at the bottom of the castle hill, on which he built a small monastery, for his scholars, obtained so great a reputation for learning and sanctity, that the place was from him named Maldulphsbury, and in time contracted to Malmsbury.

The small monastery built by Maldulphus, in process of time increased so considerably, that at length it was turned into a stately abbey, by one of his scholars, named Adhelm, who became the first abbot, and was so highly venerated as to be afterwards canonized, and the town itself for a time was called Adhelmsbury.

King Athelstan made Adhelm his titular saint, and for his sake granted the town large immunities, and greatly enriched the monastery. The king, by his own desire, was buried under the high altar of the church belonging to it, where the inhabitants still shew his monument.

There is a field, adjoining to the town, yet known by the name of this abbot, and so high was his reputation for sanctity, that his robe, in which he said mass, together with his psalter, were preserved until the monastery was dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII. at which time one Thomas Stump, a

great clothier, saved the church by purchasing it from the commissioners, for a considerable sum of money; and generously gave it as a present to the inhabitants. The choir, however, has been suffered to fall to decay, but the body of the church is used for divine service. The yearly revenues of this abbey were valued at 803*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*

The remains of this once noble abbey church plainly shew that it must have been a very magnificent structure, equal to most of our cathedrals. The abbey consisted of a very large spacious body, with a fine western front and tower, a large steeple, rising from the middle cross aisle, and choir, &c. On one of the bells contained in these steeples was the following curious distich:

“Elysium cœli nunquam conscendat ad aulam,  
Qui furat hanc nolan Adhelmi sedi beati.”

That is “May he never go to heaven who shall steal this bell, from the seat of the blessed Adhelm.” Notwithstanding this terrible denunciation, the bell, with all the rest, has been long since taken away.

Malmsbury is at present a large, well-built, populous town, carrying on a considerable trade in the manufactory of woollen cloth. It was incorporated early under the Saxon kings, but the present charter was granted by William III. by which it is governed by an alderman, 12 burgesses, and four assistants, all of whom are chosen annually.

Here is an Alms-house for four men and four women, founded by one Mr. Jenner, a goldsmith, of London.

The town has a good weekly market on Saturday.

The town of Malmsbury has produced several eminent men, particularly, William of Malmsbury, the historian; Oliver of Malmsbury, a great mathematician and mechanic; and Thomas Hobbes, the philosopher.—A curious anecdote is related of Oliver of Malmsbury, that taking it into his head that

he

he could fly, he made himself wings, and having got up to the top of one of the towers of the abbey, he attempted to fly from thence, and did fly, as it is said, about a furlong, but then falling he broke both his thighs, and soon after died, in the year 1060, five years before the Conquest.

About one mile north of Malmsbury is CHARLTON PARK, the seat of the Earl of Suffolk, in the midst of a fine lawn, remarkably well-planted, so as to break all appearance of an insipid uniformity.

The mansion house was built from the designs of that celebrated architect Inigo Jones; it is a most beautiful square structure, with projecting bows in each front; since its first erection this house, in the internal arrangement of its apartments, has undergone several judicious alterations. There are some very fine paintings in the collection here, entitled to the particular notice of the traveller of taste, among them are the following:

In the dining room, a superb room, 40 feet long, a fine anonymous portrait, supposed to be of some distinguished personage, from the hawk upon the wrist; an usual accompaniment of nobility.

Our Saviour's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, by Paul Veronese.—Thomas third Lord Bruce and Diana daughter and coheirress of William, Earl of Exeter, by Vandyck.—Cataline swearing the Conspirators.

In the library is a very curious portrait of Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, third son of Lord Treasurer Suffolk; she is dressed in black: "the tight, stiff, and inconvenient costume of the age of Queen Elizabeth, with white shoes, and blue stockings."

Among the many fine portraits, we must not omit to notice that of Sir Jerome Bowes, who was sent ambassador to Russia, by Queen Elizabeth, in 1583. On his arrival in the capital of the empire, he was met by the principal officers of state, on horseback, who expected that he would have alighted, as a

mark of respect towards them ; but this sacrifice of his sovereign's dignity he avoided with considerable dexterity. Upon his introduction to the czar he was placed at some distance from him, and ordered to send his credentials ; this he refused, and was proceeding to deliver them into his Majesty's own hands, when the chancellor stepped forward to receive them, but Sir Jerome significantly told him, that he had no letters directed for him, and immediately advanced to the throne. Having afterwards received some insults from the emperor himself, our ambassador resented these so boldly that he received orders instantly to quit the imperial presence. The emperor, however, soon repented his hasty determination, and recalled Sir Jerome, assuring him " that he wished he had an hundred such faithful servants in his own dominions ; and further to convince him of his respect for the English sovereign, he would, on his return home, send a greater man with him than had ever before quitted his dominions, with fine presents."

The great gallery in this house extends the whole length of the front ; its ceiling is justly esteemed one of the finest specimens of the abilities of Inigo Jones, and a wonder of art.

About three miles to the west of Malmsbury, is a village called GREAT SHENSTONE. It is supposed to have been a Roman station, not only on account of its situation on the fosse-way, but from the great number of coins which have been found here, at different periods, many of which were silver.

A little to the north of Malmsbury is another village, called NEWTON, or Long Newton. It is pleasantly situated, and commands an advantageous prospect of Malmsbury Church, as also of Charlton House and Park, where the Earls of Berkshire had a seat before the Civil Wars, when it was demolished by the soldiers. At the upper end of the village was the seat of Sir Giles Escourt, lord of the manor. It



is said that this village was built instead of one that formerly stood near it, a little higher in the fields, and this is confirmed by the foundations of houses being frequently discovered by the plough. The old one being destroyed by fire, the inhabitants rebuilt it, on the present spot, from whence it derived the name of Newton, or New Town.

## OAKSEY,

A village adjoining to Charlton. The manor belonged to — Westley, an army taylor, who left it with Kemble to his two daughters, co-heiresses, married to — Andrews, and — Cox, who divided the property, which the latter was prevented from settling on a second wife.

The Church consists of a nave, with two aisles, and chancel, divided from each other by a round arch. The south aisle has three arches on round pillars. Five clerestory windows. In a north window are the remains of a painting of the seven sacraments, in which may be distinguished the virgin and child, and two bishops.

In a field south of the church is a square area, moated and banked, a mount at the north-east corner, and north of that more square banks, as of gardens, and a distant mount, by itself, at the north end of the field.

Minte or Minty Church, in an adjoining parish, consists of a nave and four pointed arches, two aisles and a chancel.

The father of Admiral Sir William Penn was of this parish, according to Wood, (Ath. Ox. 11. 1050) where his son was born 1621; though his epitaph in Redcliffe Church, Bristol, makes him a native of that city.

Hankerton Church has a north aisle, divided from the nave by pointed arches on round pillars. The north aisle door is stopped up, and there is only one window, a high pointed door in the north side of the tower stopped. The north-west and south-west buttresses



buttresses of the tower have niches, and a lion and dog, and a modern shield on the west face. The South porch door is curiously carved.

#### CRUDWELL,

A village adjoining to Hankerton. The church is a handsome building, with a rich stone south porch, two aisles, in which are three lancets, and the remains of a beautiful window, representing the seven sacraments in six compartments.

About eight miles from hence is

#### CRICKLADE.

A place of considerable antiquity, and a borough by prescription, it was originally called *Ceriuwald*, which in British signifies a rocky or stony place, and was in ancient times of some importance, there having been once belonging to it 1300 hide lands; and it gave name to the hundred now united to that of Highworth. The river Thames is navigable for boats up to this place. The municipal government is vested in a bailiff. The right of parliamentary election has been, on account of the corruption practised here, extended to the freeholders of the five hundreds or divisions of Highworth, Cricklade, Staple, Kingsbridge, and Malmesbury. The weekly market is on Saturday.

About three miles to the south of Cricklade is a village called PURTON; it is very pleasantly situated, has a handsome church, and several good buildings, respectably inhabited.

Some years ago, as some men were digging to make a grave in the chancel of the church, they struck against a stone coffin, about three feet below the surface of ground, and having with some difficulty raised it up, it was found to measure six feet six inches in length, 22 inches broad, and 11 inches deep, which was hollowed with great art, but the rest of the coffin was of rude workmanship. It was impossible to determine the time when this had been first deposited, as neither figure nor inscription were

were to be seen. In it were found three skulls of the common size, supposed to have been forced into it by accident, when other graves had been opened in the place, and this opinion is the more probable from there being no lid, only a piece of decayed board, which might have served as a cover.

About three miles from Purton is Lediard Tregoze, a small village; the church here contains a great many monuments of the St. John family, whose pedigree, traced by Sir Richard St. George, knight, Garter King at Arms, from the conquest to the beginning of the 17th century, with the arms and monuments of the intermarrying families, is curiously painted on the folding doors on the north side of of the chancel, and within these doors is also painted the tomb of Sir John St. John, who died in 1594, and 1598, with their issue. The descent of this estate is well expressed in the following lines, copied from the above pedigree:

When conquering William won by force of sword

This famous island, then called Britain land,

Of Tregoze then was Ewias only lord,

Whose heir to Tregoz linkt in marriage bond,

That Tregoz, a great baron in his age,

By her had issue the Lord Grauntson's wife,

Whose daughter Patshull took in marriage

And Beauchamp theirs which Beauchamp's happy  
life,

Was blessed with a daughter, whence did spring

An heir to St. John who did Lydeard bring

This course of time by God Almighty's power

Five hundred and forty-nine years and now more,

Hath kept this land of Lydeard in one race

Where at this day is St. John's dwelling place.

Noe, Noe; he dwells in heaven, whose anchored  
faith

Fixed on God, accounted life but death."

The present mansion-house is a handsome modern building.

Three miles south west from this place is

### WOITON BASSET,

Situated in the hundred of Kingsbridge, an ancient borough town and corporation, but at present a very inconsiderable place, it anciently belonged to the noble family of *Basset*, and came from them to Hugh Despenser, on whose attainder it devolved to the Crown, and in the fifteenth century was the residence of the Duke of York, who inclosed here a large park for deer.

This town is a borough by prescription, and has sent members to parliament ever since the first summons, the corporation consists of a mayor, and other officers.

The chief employment of the inhabitants is in the woollen manufactures and agriculture. The trade of this place has however, received some impulse from the facilities of communication, afforded to it by the Wilts and Berks canal we have before noticed.

The market day is on Friday.

*Journey from Marlborough to Highworth, through Swindon.*

About four miles from Marlborough, on the right of our road, is Ogbourn St. Giles, where there was a priory of benedictines to the abbey of Becell in Normandy, and in this parish there is an ancient camp called Barbury Castle, where it is supposed the Britons suffered a great defeat in a battle with the Saxons, fought in 556. There is another camp called Leddington Castle two miles north of Ogbourn.

About four miles to the left of our road is WINTERBORN BASSET, where, a little north of Abury is a druidical circle of stones, west of it a single broad high flat stone, and about as far north a barrow, set round with large stones. Dr. Stukely supposes that these circles were for a family chapel of an arch druid.

SWINDON is a large market town, about twelve miles from Marlborough, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, from whence there is a delightful prospect over several parts of Berkshire. There are some very extensive quarries of valuable stone in this parish. The weekly market is on Monday.

Six miles from hence is HIGHWORTH, situated in the hundred to which it gives name, near the northern extremity of the county, on the borders of Berkshire. The town, which is an inconsiderable place, derives its name most probably from its being built on a hill, which is surrounded by fertile and well cultivated fields. It is called a borough, but there is no record of its having ever sent members to parliament. The church is an indifferent gothic structure, but the living is valuable. The weekly market is on Wednesday.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

We have already described the more remarkable of these under the heads of Avebury, Banbury Castle near Marlborough, Bedwin Church, Bradbury Castle, Bradenstoke Priory, Cheselbury Priory, Clarendon House, Devizes Castle, Hungerford Church, Laycock Nunnery, Longford castle, Ludgershall Castle, Malmsbury Abbey and Castle, Old Sarum, Salisbury Cathedral, STONEHENGE, Wansdyke which crosses the county, Wardour Castle, &c.

*Natural Curiosities.*—These we have also noticed as they occurred during the progress of our journies.

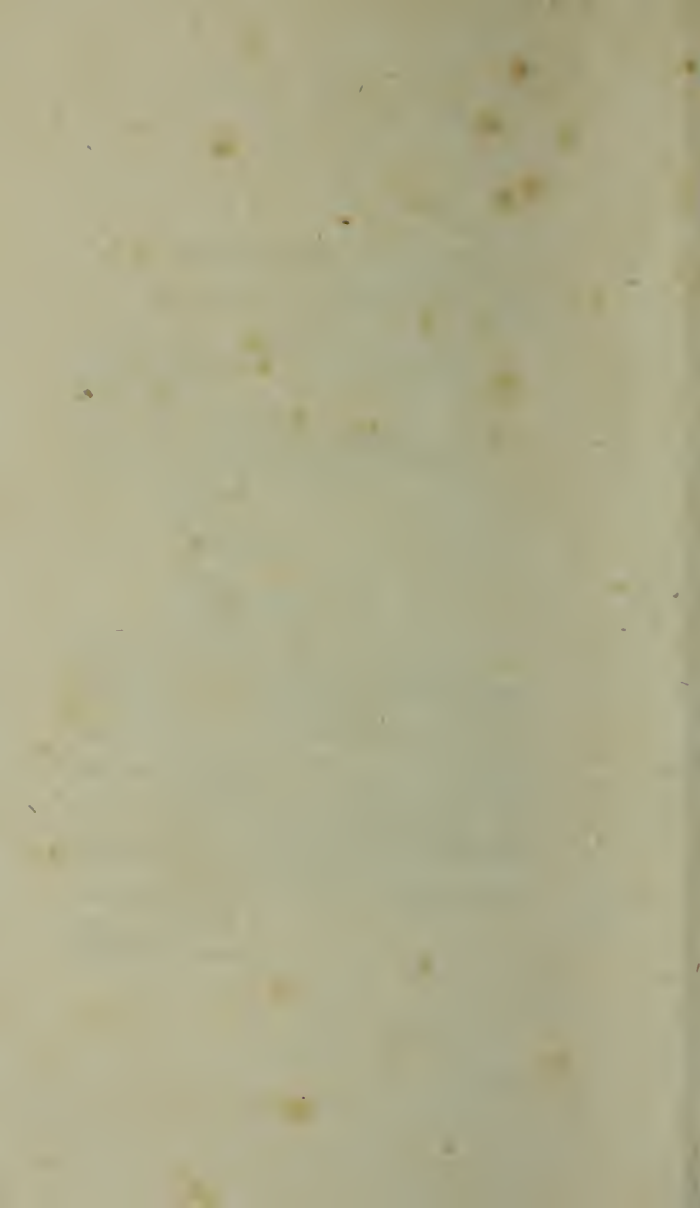
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